

Sporadic resistance from Saddam's retreating forces as allies surround Republican Guard

## War will continue until Iraqis lay down their arms, Bush pledges

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday pledged to fight the Gulf war with undiminished intensity until all Iraqi soldiers laid down their arms. He scorned President Saddam Hussein's speech ordering an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and effectively demanded his total surrender.

Saddam had declared: "You have faced the whole world, brave Iraqis. You have won. You are victorious. How sweet victory is." The withdrawal would be complete within the day, but even after that, the army's readiness to fight must be at the "highest level". The Iraqi leader was later reported to have left Baghdad to meet his troops.

Mr Bush condemned the speech as an outrage that showed no remorse for the "pathological destruction" of Kuwait. "He is not withdrawing. His defeated forces are retreating. He is trying to claim victory in the midst of a rout," the president said in a televised statement from the White House Rose Garden.

Saddam had met none of the coalition's conditions for a ceasefire, including Washington's demand that he publicly and personally accept all UN Security Council resolutions. Far from renouncing Iraq's annexation of Kuwait in his Baghdad radio broadcast, he had made clear his continued claim to that country. Nor had he shown any sign that he was prepared to accept

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responsibility for the "awful consequences" of his aggression. Saddam was interested not in peace, but in regrouping to fight another day. That, he would not be allowed to do.

Mr Bush's uncompromising stance reflected his knowledge that allied forces had reached the Euphrates river to surround the Republican Guard and cut off all the Iraqi troops' escape routes. Kuwait City was liberated yesterday, with Iraqis scrambling out in disorder, abandoning their equipment as they left the capital in the control of resistance leaders. Kuwaitis surged into the streets, weeping and shouting with joy.

The Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, who escaped into exile in Saudi Arabia after the invasion in August, proclaimed martial law in a document signed in the hill resort of Taif.

Mr Bush is now determined that as much as possible of Saddam's military might should be destroyed. He also wants to ensure that the Iraqi leader's defeat is so comprehensive and ignominious that his hold on power is gravely undermined.

A third concern was to head off Soviet and Iraqi-led moves to win UN approval for a ceasefire. The security council met in private yesterday afternoon to discuss the request, but adjourned without making a decision.

American Central Command in Saudi Arabia announced that the Iraqi army was "in full retreat", but was fighting as it went and was therefore being attacked and destroyed. Mr Bush said the coalition forces would not attack retreating soldiers if they abandoned their weapons. "It is time for all Iraqi forces in the theatre of operation to lay down their arms," he said. "That will stop the bloodshed."

That attitude was echoed in Downing Street, where John Major said the Iraqis must abandon their weapons and equipment. "Until they do so, they will be treated as hostile."

In Riyadh, Brigadier-General Richard Neal gave further evidence of the scale of the rout. The allied offensive had destroyed or rendered useless 21 Iraqi divisions — about

200,000 men — and more than 400 tanks. More than 30,000 prisoners had been taken. "At one point we more or less stopped counting."

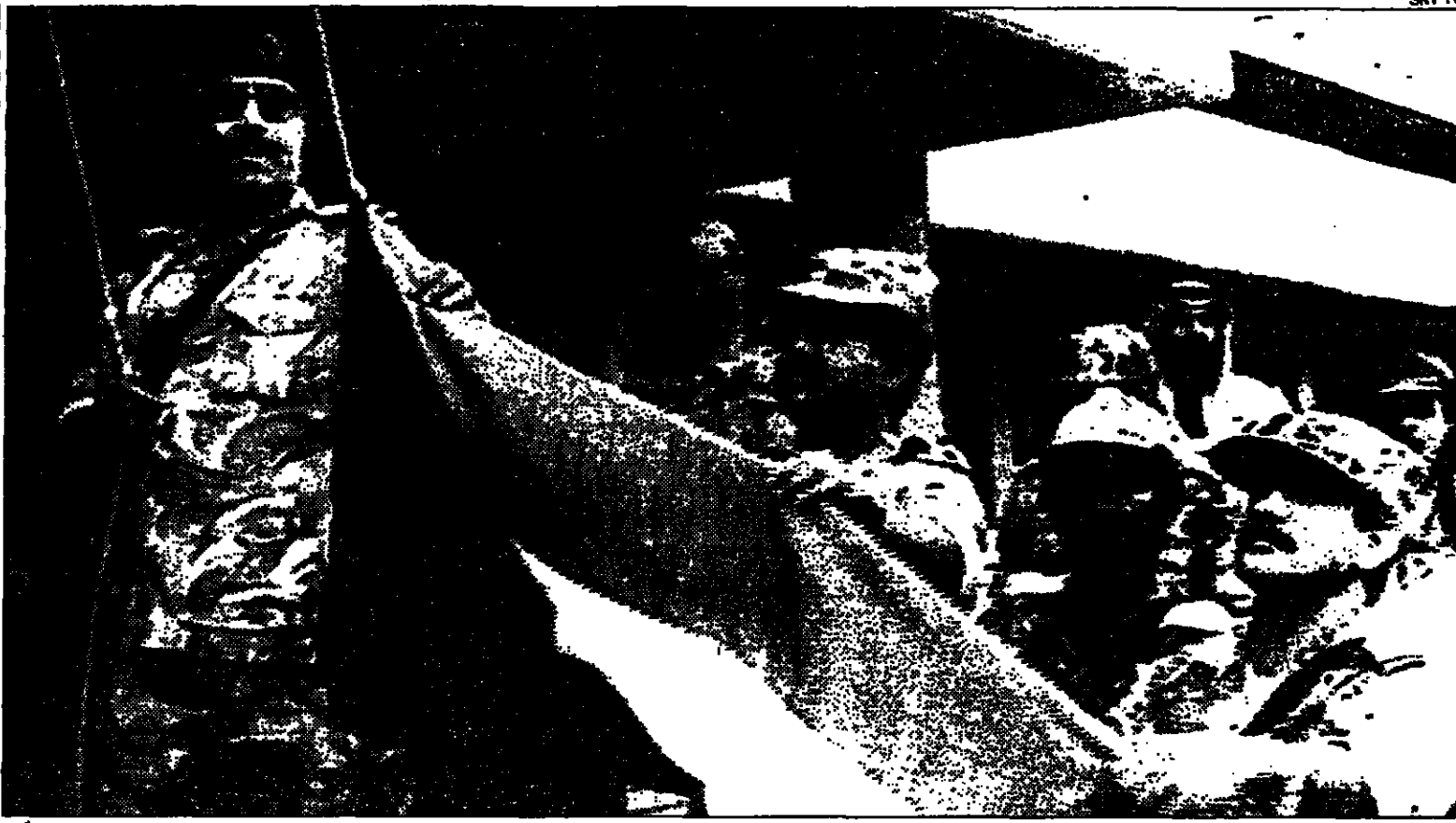
There were isolated pockets of resistance, including a stiff rearguard action at Kuwait's international airport where a fierce tank battle was raging between American marines and enemy soldiers, but the Iraqi military was "collapsing across the front". There had been engagements where Republican Guard units had been outflanked, outmanoeuvred and destroyed. Some 500,000 of Saddam's soldiers were trapped in the war zone.

In Washington, a senior military official said that allied forces had reached the Euphrates in southern Iraq to cut off the Republican Guard divisions, who were almost completely surrounded. Fast-moving elements of the American 7th Armoured Corps and Britain's 1st Armoured Division were heading north to complete the encirclement. An American force, said by some reports to be 100,000-strong, was fighting guard units near the Euphrates just inside the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

"We are poised to prevent any withdrawal to Baghdad," the official said. "We have them checked. If they try to go back to Basra, the air force will kill them. If they go to the other side of the Tigris, the bridges are down. If they try to flee north to Baghdad, they'll run into the US army and if they move south into Kuwait, they run into coalition forces and the US marines."

Evidence that the allies had blocked off all the main supply routes in southern Iraq, encircling the Republican Guard, was provided by British sources who said that an attempt would be made to "filter" Iraqi soldiers as they gave up the fight and walked or drove back from Kuwait.

One of the aims was to find the small number of Iraqi officers who were known to stay out of Pentagon pool



Free at last: General Jaber al-Sabah of the Kuwaiti armed forces, left, helping to raise his national flag on the outskirts of Kuwait City yesterday

### 'As we stand here, Kuwait City is free'

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN AMERICAN television news team brought the world its first scenes of a liberated Kuwait City yesterday.

"As we stand here, Kuwait City is a free city," Bob McKeown, a CBS correspondent, said as a crowd of Kuwaiti men surrounded him cheering and waving Kuwaiti flags. Around him was a city that had suffered the vilest horrors of war, but for a moment there was just relief that those horrors had been brought to an end.

Mr McKeown, who chose to stay out of Pentagon pool

reporting and instead set off alone as a freelance in combat zones, said that his news team drove into the city without any problems. As they drove along, there were scenes of abandoned Iraqi tanks and other military vehicles burned out along the roadside.

Residents described abuses by Iraqi troops in the last few days before their departure. One Kuwaiti man said that Iraqi soldiers dragged some people inside their homes and shot them in front of their mothers. The man said that boys were shot for writing

slogans denouncing Saddam Hussein. The CBS team said residents told them that Iraqi troops began a precipitous pullout late on Monday and that at midnight the civilian resistance began to take over the city. By yesterday afternoon the resistance was taking control of police stations.

Hours earlier there had been dancing in the streets when it appeared that the Iraqi occupiers had fled. Kuwait radio tried to dampen the public celebrations, telling residents to stay indoors and not to carry weapons in case they were mistaken for Iraqis or Iraqi sympathisers.

With the allies still 12 miles outside the city, advance units were involved in an intense battle with Iraqi armoured units at the airport. One source said that Iraqis in control of the airport were holding several hostages.

CBS did not give the exact location of the news team, but Mr McKeown said that he was near the American embassy in the city centre. A Kuwaiti man approached the television crew armed with an M-16 assault rifle and said that he and 50 other Kuwaitis had taken 400 Iraqis prisoner and were preparing to take control of the embassy.

In a telephone interview with CNN television, Abou Fahad, a member of the Kuwaiti resistance, said that Iraqi troops had fled the city in a disorganised way, abandoning vehicles, weapons and equipment. Mr Fahad said that the bodies of Kuwaitis killed by Iraqis had been collected on a city footpath.

"Three days ago, they started destroying all of our buildings," he said. "They did destroy all the hotels inside Kuwait and the old government buildings. The last few days we could not even leave our houses. They captured thousands, not less than 10,000."

### Moscow tempers call for ceasefire

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Soviet Union sought yesterday to avoid a split with the United States by tempering its call for a ceasefire in the Gulf with a demand that Iraq accept all 12 United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Soviet ambassador to the UN, Yuli Vorontsov, a deputy foreign minister, said: "We need two things at one and the same time. We need the ceasefire and we need compliance with all the resolutions of the security council." A ceasefire was "important, urgent, but no less important is the agreement of Saddam Hussein with all 12 resolutions," he said.

Moscow appeared to modify its position after a meeting with the other permanent members of the security council — Britain, China, France and the United States.

Before the five-power meet-

ing, Alexander Belonogov, also a deputy foreign minister, said in Moscow that his government had received a message from Saddam and would seek an immediate ceasefire.

Diplomats said Saddam's message to President Mikhail Gorbachev confirmed that Iraq was ready to withdraw on the basis of security council resolution 660 and that the order to pull out had been given. The Iraqi leader also asked Mr Gorbachev to use the Soviet Union's influence to obtain a ceasefire in the security council.

"We gave instructions to the Soviet envoy to the United Nations to undertake urgent measures to decide the question of an immediate ceasefire," Mr Belonogov said.

Diplomats leaving the five-power meeting said, however, Continued on page 22, col 5

### Churchmen attack Carey

Leading Anglo-Catholics, led by the Bishop of Chichester, have attacked Dr George Carey, the next Archbishop of Canterbury, for a statement on the ordination of women priests. In an interview, Dr Carey says: "The idea that only a male can represent Christ at the altar is a most serious heresy." Page 22

### Gascoigne offer



Tottenham Hotspur football club says it is prepared to sell its leading players, Paul Gascoigne (left) and Gary Lineker if suitable offers are made, in an effort to relieve its financial difficulties. Pages 23, 40

### Driver silent

The driver of a train which crashed at Cannon Street station in London last month, killing two people, has refused to give evidence to a public enquiry. Page 7

### Bard rewritten

Trevor Nunn, who is about to stage one of Shakespeare's least-known plays, talks about his "clarifying job" on the text of *Timon of Athens* — a task that has included supplying additional dialogue and rewriting the ending. Page 19

### Bank to cut jobs

National Westminster set aside £1.04 billion against bad debts last year, and has said that trading will not improve before the end of the year. The massive provisions have forced the bank to cut 17,000 jobs by 1993. Page 23

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### US marines hail 'the mother of all defeats'

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER, EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

SADDAM calls it a withdrawal, the allies call it a retreat, but the American marines have no reservations. "The mother of all defeats," they called it yesterday, and there was dancing in the streets in Kuwait City.

"This morning it was bumper to bumper," said Lieutenant Brian Kasperbauer, the pilot of an American A6 Intruder bomber, describing the rout of Iraqi forces. "It was the road to Daytona Beach at spring break. Just bumper to bumper... spring break is over."

had it easy as they peppered the roads north to Iraq which were clogged with fleeing military vehicles.

As the USS Ranger stepped up its regular flight schedule to further reduce the chances of Iraqi armour escaping across the border, its pilots expressed no concern about killing soldiers who appeared to be withdrawing. They said the Iraqis could be regrouping for an attack, trying to rejoin other units or simply further plundering the tiny desert emirate.

"I feel pity for these guys only because of their leader, only because of the distance I have for what he has done to his people and the needless sacrifice he has made them pay. And for what?" said Commander Frank Sweigart, leader of one of the carrier's two A6 attack squadrons. As the

carrier's public address system reverberated to the rousing tones of the *William Tell Overture*, the ship's theme music, Captain Ernest Christensen told his crew: "It looks like the Iraqis are moving out and we are hitting them hard. It is not going to take too many more days until there is nothing left of them."

On the ground in Kuwait, young US marines were exhilarated by the unexpected speed of their success, the low rate of casualties and the pathetic nature of the much-vaunted Iraqi defences which were much more flimsy than had been predicted by most Western defence experts.

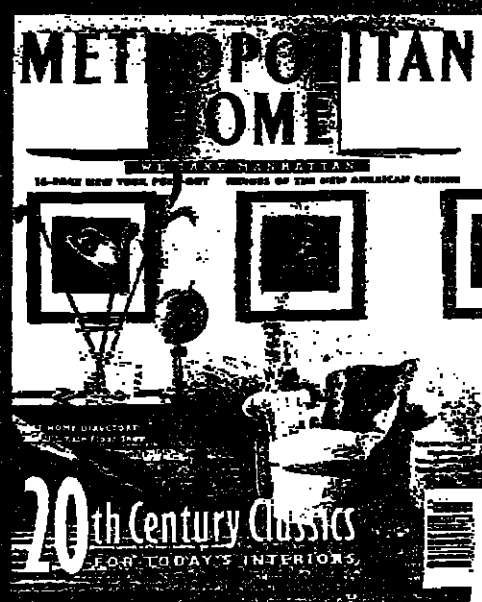
At one stage on the route north to Kuwait City, they discovered that one minefield and surrounding fortification, expected to be 2,000 yards in depth, had proved only 140 yards

deep. "Damn, if I knew it was going to be this easy I would have said 'come earlier'," one marine exclaimed as he jumped out of his supply truck after his first taste of combat. Another marine said from the next vehicle: "I am re-entailing." An apprentice hospital man, Chifton Hogan, aged 20, added: "There is nothing like this. It is like a nature hike. The Iraqi soldiers jump up like squirrels to surrender."

Many have fallen to their knees and thanked their Western captors. One with an American accent claimed he had come to Baghdad on holiday from the United States and been immediately drafted to the front line.

Iraqis were reported to be withdrawing in disorder, either dropping their weapons or being rounded up. None of the reports spoke of Iraqi resistance.

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## KUWAIT CITY

# Tank battle rages as airport is surrounded

FROM REUTERS IN RIYADH

AMERICAN marines surrounded Iraqi forces who were holding Kuwaitis prisoner at Kuwait airport on the outskirts of the capital, now abandoned by Iraqi soldiers, a senior Kuwaiti military official said yesterday. The marines were reported to be locked in a tank battle.

"The airport has been surrounded since early this morning. The US marines were at the airport this afternoon and there could be fighting there now," the military official said.

The official was speaking after an announcement by the American military that Kuwait City was not yet free of Iraqi forces and a fierce battle was raging between American marines and enemy soldiers at the airport.

"All Kuwait City is clear, and the resistance leaders say they are in control now," he added.

An Egyptian military spokesman said that Egyptian advance units in the multinational forces reached a Kuwaiti military airport near the capital yesterday.

"The troops have taken position to secure the airport and liquidate some elements of resistance," the spokesman said. The Ali al-Salem military airport is 10 miles west of Kuwait City.

A military communiqué earlier said that 4,000 Iraqi soldiers of all ranks surrendered yesterday to Egyptian troops advancing in Kuwait in the offensive to recapture the emirate. They were being evacuated to prisoner-of-war camps in Saudi Arabia. It said there were no casualties among Egyptian forces yesterday.

Egypt, which has 35,000 troops with the multinational force in the Gulf, has said it will not enter Iraqi territory.

● **Hellish highway:** Allied forces advancing on Kuwait City travel a path of destruction littered with burned out tanks, barbed wire and under a mantle of smoke thick enough to black out the sun (Russell Boyce writes). Dense, boiling clouds from burning oil wells hang above the hellish, bomb-holed highway spread with mines, anti-tank missile pods and shell casings.

The route to the city yesterday was lined with burned out tanks, unexploded bombs and rolls of barbed wire.

Anything not burned has been shot at, gouged out or knocked down in the battle to drive Iraq from Kuwait. Large chunks of torn-up tarmac pavement are stacked like pancakes in the sand.

The advancing allied army must zig-zag between the obstacles, stopping to clear the safer ones from their path before resuming the drive north.

Burned-out civilian cars lie overturned on either side of what is left of the highway and every petrol station seemed to have been smashed into splinters.

Road signs are flattened into the ground and junctions have been obliterated.

Oil pipe lines lie in tangled spaghetti-like piles across the roads — part of a futile Iraqi plan to set the highways on fire with blazing oil to stop the allies' advance.

Like the other defences put up by the Iraqis since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait, the allies steamrollered their way across or through them.

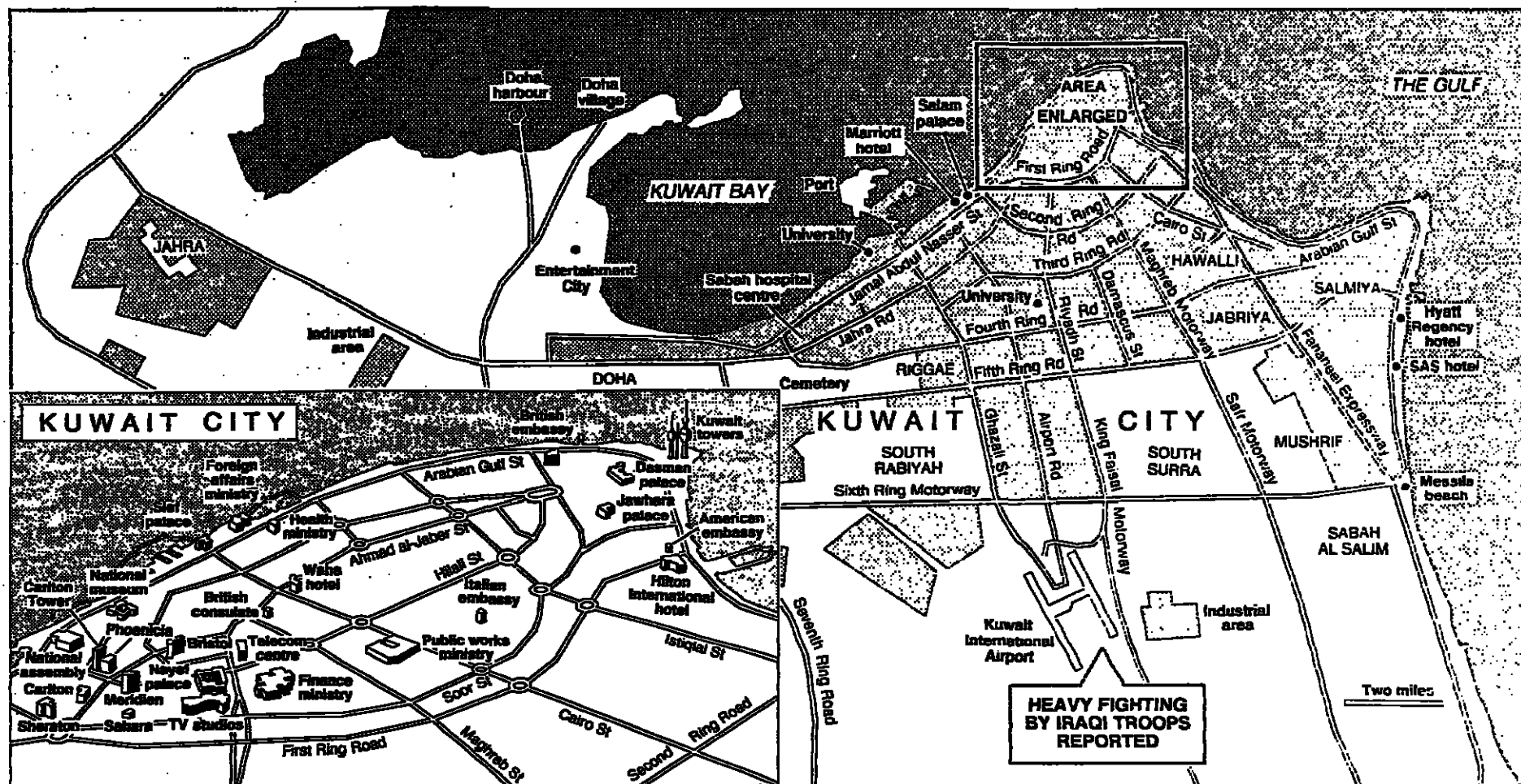
Pylons that once held up power lines are stretched out on the desert like felled trees.

Shops, businesses and homes for 30 miles inside Kuwait have been looted, burned, smashed. Not a single window has an unbroken pane of glass.

American officials have accused President Saddam Hussein of ordering a "scorched earth" policy to destroy Kuwait before he withdraws, but the allied pounding of Iraqi forces has also damaged the emirate.

There are no civilians on the road but Iraqi prisoners are everywhere, many with expressions of relief on their faces. For them at least the war is over.

They embrace their captors, accept cigarettes and treatment for their wounds. They call out that "God is Great".



## EXILES

## Jubilation as flag again flies over the capital

By RAY CLANCY

JUBILANT Kuwaitis exiled in Britain last night spoke of their country being free at last as reports told of the Kuwaiti flag flying again in their homeland and of celebrating and dancing in the streets.

The team in Kuwait City that, at risk of death, has sent regular messages by satellite to the Free Kuwait Campaign headquarters in London continually updated its reports as the liberation progressed. The first message, received at 8am yesterday, described how Iraqi troops were abandoning their weapons and fleeing the war-torn city as allied troops and tanks could be seen roaring up the al-Safar motorway towards its centre.

Yousef al-Yousef, a consultant engineer, said: "The Kuwaiti flag is flying from the rooftops for the first time since the Iraqis invaded on August 2. The Iraqi troops are running away, dropping their guns and even their ammunition belts. They have no officers and without leadership they are totally confused. But people are still afraid. There could be mines and booby traps."

The second message, at noon, was more dramatic. It described how Kuwaitis were going into the streets, picking up abandoned guns and rounding up any Iraqis they could find. "They are arresting the Iraqis and holding them in police stations," Dr al-Yousef said. "They are firing guns into the air in celebration. I think we can now say that Kuwait is free."

The message also said that the main buildings in Kuwait City were on fire. Six hotels, the emir's executive offices, the National Assembly building, the Sief palace (the cabinet office) and the al-Salam palace (the guest house used by visiting dignitaries) were all ablaze. None of the city's banks seems to have been damaged and the stock exchange is in good condition.

"Iraqis are being held in custody in the police stations," the message said. "There are many fires. Kuwaitis are joyous and shooting into the air. People are on the streets. They are using their cars with Kuwaiti licence plates. Medals commemorating national day are being distributed."

A third message gave further details of destruction caused by retreating Iraqis and described how large quantities of arms and ammunition were collected from houses where Iraqi troops had been hiding. "The enemy has left behind huge quantities of ammunition and anti-aircraft guns on the beaches and on top of buildings," the message said. "The ammunition is being collected by volunteers and kept in safe places for handing over to the allied forces."

Iraqi soldiers began withdrawing at midnight and used every means to escape. They stole cars and headed north towards the border. Those left behind were rounded up and were being kept "as prisoners of war in safe places and being treated humanely", the message said.

For the first time the campaigners spoke freely about how clandestine messages had

## RULING FAMILY

## Exiled emir predicts three months of martial rule

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN DHAHRAN

IN PREPARATION for an imminent return of the exiled Kuwaiti government, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir, yesterday declared that the country would be under martial law for the next three months.

The declaration was broadcast by Kuwait radio which is based temporarily in Saudi Arabia. It stated that the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, had been named as military governor with the task of co-ordinating Kuwait's armed forces and those of the allied coalition. The main purpose was to enable the returning authorities to round up and punish all those — mostly Palestinians — suspected of collaborating with the Iraqis and perpetrating atrocities.

Sheikh Saad is prepared to ask American, British and other foreign troops to stay on if he thinks the postwar security situation warrants it. Some senior British officers have expressed displeasure that their men may be asked to

help clear nearly 500,000 unexploded Iraqi mines.

To add to the growing expectations that the ruling family will be home soon, a spokesman for the exiled government said that by the end of this week, it will have transferred its base from the remote Saudi mountain resort of Taif, 688 miles from the Kuwait border to the luxury Oberoi hotel in the Saudi coastal town of Dammam, which is 200 miles south of the Kuwait. Plans for the emotional return to Kuwait City have not yet been finalised.

When the emir and his entourage return, they will face an array of political, economic, health and security problems in a state which has been systematically pillaged since Iraqi troops crossed the border on August 2.

Up to 500 oil wells have been set ablaze and the vital desalination plant has been put out of service making the provision of water a priority. Rubbish has not been collected for six months and

British military forces fear that rats, encouraged by the collapsed sewage system, may be spreading bubonic plague.

At least 25 per cent of the 300,000 Kuwaitis remaining are believed to be suffering from medical problems. It is unknown what kind of accommodation remains for the 500,000 outside the country. Because of mines, booby traps and the ravaged infrastructure — even traffic lights were ripped up and taken to Baghdad — it may be months before most can return.

Official estimates of the damage caused by the Iraqi occupation range upwards of \$100 billion (£52 billion) with little expectation that Iraq — a country with \$70 billion in foreign debts — will be able to meet the reparations eventually to be agreed.

Kuwait is to ask the US and other countries, including Britain, for financial assistance to help with rebuilding. Scores of British companies have rushed to secure lucrative rebuilding contracts.



Talking point: a civilian in Kuwait City telling a reporter from CBS yesterday about the retreat of the occupying Iraqi forces from the capital

## CHRONOLOGY

## Countdown to the withdrawal

Aug 2 — Iraqi tanks and troops invade Kuwait at 2am local time (11pm GMT Aug 1). Heavy fighting. Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir, flees to Saudi Arabia. UN Security Council resolution 660 condemns invasion, demands immediate Iraqi withdrawal and negotiations.

Aug 3 — Iraq moves troops in Kuwait to Saudi border. Fighting in Kuwait City. New Kuwaiti government set up, no names given. Iraq says "corrupt wealth" of Kuwaiti rulers "confiscated". Says its troops helping a Kuwaiti uprising.

Aug 4 — Up to 800 Kuwaitis reported killed in two days.

Aug 7 — Iraqi-installed government declares Kuwait a republic.

Aug 8 — Iraq announces annexation of Kuwait.

Aug 9 — Security Council resolution 662 declares annexation of Kuwait illegal. Arab League summit in Cairo, with Saddam and emir present.

Aug 10 — Arab League majority vote urging Iraq to pull out of Kuwait and to send Arab force to Saudi Arabia.

Aug 13 — Reports of torture and killing in Kuwait and of underground resistance.

Aug 18 — UN resolution 664

Iraq's occupation of Kuwait ended after six months, three weeks and three days, Susan MacDonald writes

demanding Iraq let foreigners out and rescind order to close embassies in Kuwait.

Aug 20 — Iraq orders Kuwait embassies closure in four days.

Aug 24 — 20 countries disobey order to shut embassies, Iraqi tanks surround them.

Aug 28 — Iraq declares Kuwait its 19th province. Saddam says foreign women and children free to leave Kuwait.

Sept 10 — Emir says Western hostages should not deter a military strike.

Sept 13 — Reported reign of terror in Kuwait leads FO, to strongly recommend women and children leave.

Sept 14 — Iraqi troops enter French, Dutch and Canadian ambassadors' residences.

Sept 15 — Nationals flee Kuwait, without passports or valuables, as Iraq temporarily opens Kuwait-Saudi border.

Sept 16 — Resolution 667 condemns Iraqi invasion of diplomatic grounds.

Sept 18 — Reports of horrors from fleeing Kuwaitis and that puppet leader after invasion

was hanged.

Oct 3 — Amnesty International report says Iraqi forces in Kuwait have executed scores of people and detained and tortured hundreds more. Television pictures of Saddam visiting Kuwait.

Oct 14 — Al-Sabah family promises to hold elections and restore national assembly once country liberated.

Oct 15 — Bush says Saddam could be held accountable for atrocities in Kuwait.

Oct 27 — British families escaped from Kuwait describe "appalling conditions".

Oct 29 — Resolution 674 holds Baghdad accountable for war crimes and Kuwait's destruction.

Nov 28 — Security council asks UN secretary-general to take into safekeeping 25 computer disks smuggled from Kuwait with names and fingerprints of all 1.75 million pre-invasion population.

Nov 29 — Resolution 678 authorises, "the use of all necessary means" to drive

Iraq from Kuwait.

Jan 12 — Bush's undelivered letter to Saddam after US-Iraqi talks says US "will not tolerate the use of chemical or biological weapons or the destruction of Kuwait's oil fields and installations."

Jan 16 — Bush launches Operation Desert Storm.

Jan 20 — Bombing of Iraqi targets in Kuwait begins.

Jan 22 — Kuwaiti oil facilities ablaze.

Jan 24 — Allies capture Qaruh Island.

Feb 4 — US battleship Missouri pounds Iraqi positions in Kuwait.

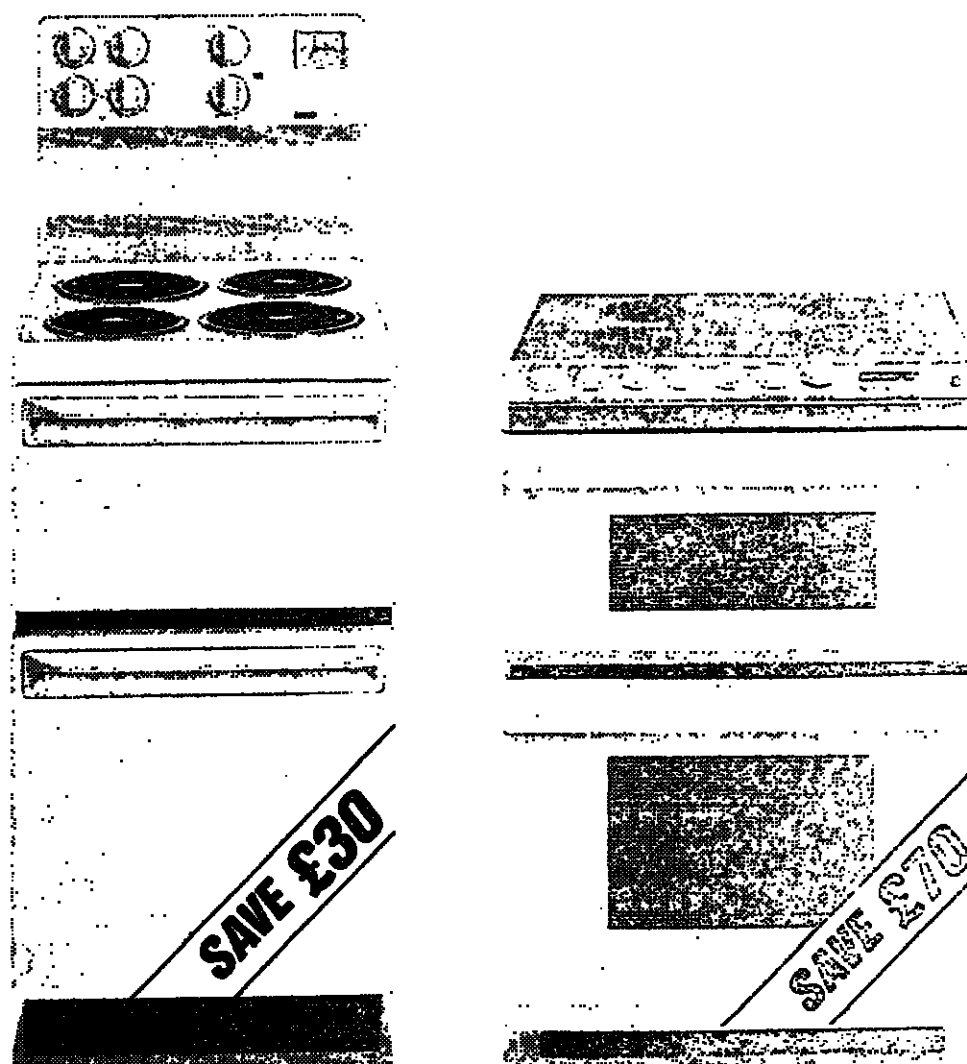
Feb 15 — Bombing continues as refugees trickle out of Kuwait to Jordan with stories of electricity and water cuts.

Feb 23 — Bush announces "the liberation of Kuwait has now entered a final phase."

Feb 24 — Allies strike. Refugees from Kuwait report fear of those in Kuwait City where troops are in civilian buildings.

Feb 25 — Baghdad radio announces withdrawal.

Feb 26 — Saddam says Iraqi troops will complete withdrawal from Kuwait today and Kuwait is no longer part of Iraq. Kuwait City is free as Iraqi troops flee.



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THE APPLIANCE  
OF SCIENCE



# Iraq's neighbours weigh up cost of defeating the despot



Assad: has seen off threat from rival Baath faction

IRAQ'S impending defeat has profoundly altered the policies of its neighbours, promising a realignment, a new regional balance of forces and a new relationship with the West.

None of its neighbours wants to see Iraq destroyed, yet almost all want President Saddam Hussein removed. They do not want a country so shattered that its weakness becomes a source of regional instability. They are determined, however, that the man who has threatened them all and brought untold destruction to a once prosperous region should not escape with his armour or his life.

Even King Hussein of Jordan, whose country has been bankrupted by the war, realises that the man with whom he has unwisely forged too close an alliance has brought catastrophe on himself and his neighbours. Jordan has paid disproportionately for the aggression of Saddam.

The country is having to undergo a painful reassessment, but Iraq's other neighbours stand

to gain much from Saddam's defeat. Kuwait, of course, recovers its liberty, but inherits a ravaged country that will cost an estimated \$50 billion (£26 billion) to rebuild, without counting the cost of capping the blazing oil wells.

Saudi Arabia has also had to pay vast sums to support the war, and it will have to pay as much again to repair its ruined border towns and clear up after the encampment of the allied army in its desert. And, on Iraq's western flank, the war has decisively altered Syrian policy.

By aligning himself with the Americans, President Assad has achieved four long-standing aims. First, he has eliminated the threat from the Iraqi wing of the Baath party; Iraq will no longer be able to threaten Syria directly or through proxies in Lebanon.

Second, he has brought a dramatic improvement in relations with the West which has already unlocked economic aid, restored diplomatic relations with Britain and quietly removed

While the war has inflicted a heavy toll on many countries, Michael Binyon reports that the nations in the region have much to gain as they work for stability.

the threat of American sanctions over Lockerbie and other suspected terrorist connections.

Third, the president has secured Syrian hegemony in Lebanon, protecting Syria's long-standing special interest in that country. Finally, he has positioned Syria to play a central role after the war, especially in any peace conference on the Arab-Israeli issue. Mr Assad can neutralise Israeli attempts to persuade Washington to exclude Syria from the peace process, and he can put strong pressure on the world to include the Golan Heights on any agenda.

In the east, Iran has also seen a significant improvement in its world standing. Britain has re-established diplomatic links, easing Tehran's important economic

interest in strengthening links with the European Community. This in turn has strengthened the hand of President Rafsanjani against his radical rivals and brought Iraq back as an important regional power whose legitimate interests are recognised internationally. The conflict satisfied all Iran's claims arising from the Iran-Iraq war.

The war has also opened the way for a better relationship between Iran and the Soviet Union and the United States. At the same time Iran's careful neutrality gives it continuing leverage with any new government in Baghdad.

In the north, Turkey has improved its standing with its NATO allies and can expect generous political and financial re-

ward for letting American fighters use its air bases. Turkey has underlined NATO's commitment to its security while also raising its profile in the Middle East. The Turkish support for the alliance might strengthen the country's hand against Greece in the still unresolved Cyprus question. It will also bolster Turkey's claim to be admitted to the European Community.

The main issue now is how to set up a new security structure for the region. The six neighbours all want the permanent containment of Iraqi military power. The two non-Arab countries, Turkey and Iran, are determined that they should be included in any new structure. Iran, however, does not want any permanent Western component, whereas Turkey will emphasise its Western and NATO orientation. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Gulf states want a much reinforced Gulf Co-operation Council, but they are wary of giving Iran a central role.

Several countries have territorial ambitions of their own:

Turkey, Iran and Syria all have historic claims to Iraq, but all are suspicious of each other and know that the United Nations would not countenance any border changes. Turkey and Iran, in particular, are wary of any push by Iraqi Kurds to link up with Kurds across the borders, and they will quash any attempt to use the vacuum in Baghdad to establish a breakaway Kurdish government.

The other difficulty for Iraq's neighbours is how to establish a functioning government in Iraq that is democratic but strong enough to face the long and costly task of reconstruction.

Iraq's neighbours will not pay for the destruction Saddam wrought at home; Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have huge claims of their own. Enforcing collection of these debts on a bankrupt nation might, however, be difficult and there are real fears of bleeding a defeated nation so hard that it spawns another resentful Saddam, just as the Versailles treaty spawned Hitler.

## UNITED STATES

### Triumphant Bush rides a wave of public euphoria

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

LIKE the good cop in so many bad films, President Bush is proudly pushing at the limits of the law to make his beat a safer place. He wants to kill President Saddam Hussein, the gangster boss of Baghdad. If he cannot kill him he wants to drive him from power, and if he cannot drive him from power he wants him humiliated, weakened and tied down by peace terms that will prevent him again becoming a threat.

After the president stood up in the White House rose garden yesterday and tersely denounced Saddam's withdrawal offer as "an outrage", an admiring aide said: "He gets more like Dirty Harry every day."

As for Britain's role, an enthusiastic Republican said: "We never thought George

Bush could play Batman, but your John Major makes a nice Robin."

Mr Bush's few sharp words, demanding that Saddam show remorse and that his soldiers lay down their arms, was as close as America's famously low-wattage leader has ever come to being a triumphalist. It is out of character, but the people of America love it.

In spite of Monday's Scud attack on Dhahran, there is almost no fear now of Saddam. He has become a celluloid villain whose forces will fight, whose fearsome chemical weapons remain unused, whose only role is as a punching bag. It is a long time since the Americans have had a bully to push around at will, and they are enjoying the moment.

On Monday night Saddam's

withdrawal offer was virtually ignored by the network news bulletins. Their airtime was already and expensively committed to scenes of effortless victory. The president, who was accused at the beginning of the war of putting United Nations feelings before the fears of his own nation, is now riding a wave of popular support.

If American special forces were to arrange the death of Saddam, it would be a brave congressman who carped about domestic laws forbidding assassination. If America were to occupy southern Iraq for the foreseeable future, the president would have the support of several influential Democrats. If he were to appoint General Schwarzkopf to be the MacArthur of Baghdad, guiding Saddam's people

to democracy as his predecessor once directed the flock of the Japanese emperor, he would be guaranteed the applause of many newspaper columnists.

Although Saddam's acceptance of the UN resolutions was at the centre of Mr Bush's rose-garden rhetoric yesterday, in the eyes of the White House those resolutions are no longer the foundation for the legitimacy of Operation Desert Storm. President Bush's right to act is seen as the right of a victorious commander-in-chief, not that of a consensual coalition leader.

This euphoric bubble will, of course, eventually burst. It may be considered unlikely to criticise the short collective joy of a country whose sense of national failure so recently added "declinism" to the lexicon of common speech, and whose traditional isolationism seemed to be returning.

The question, however, for those looking beyond the next line of prisoners of war is what the longer-term effects of America's triumph will be. Even those who have yearned for the end of Vietnam's legacy are nervous about the effect on the Bush administration of a victory without tears.

There has already been a clear change in the White House balance of power. James Baker, the Secretary of State and the voice of diplomacy and caution, has lost substantial ground to Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, and Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser.

Dan Quayle, the vice-president, although a dimming prospect for conservatives outside the White House, is a powerful and articulate voice for rubbing Saddam's nose in the sand, for demanding reparations that would delight the post-Great War spirits of Versailles.

The president has decided that the management of the postwar Middle East will be conducted within easy reach of his Oval Office. Mr Baker is to be encouraged to con-



Baker: losing ground as the voice of diplomacy

centrate on other duties. He is being ruthlessly pursued by the Israeli lobby this week as the man responsible for the administration's exceptionally sharp attack on the Israeli ambassador last week. His contention that the Soviet Union must play a part in the postwar Middle East is confidently rejected now by White House and Pentagon officials.

Before the war even the most enthusiastic supporters of democracy in Eastern Europe accepted that the Middle East was different. Now the ease of the battle against Saddam is in danger of merging in American minds with the easy collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

The Emir of Kuwait tried to wrench the United States back to reality yesterday by announcing his first postwar act: the imposition of three months of martial law. No body took much notice.



Diplomatic links: Yelii Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, and Muhammad Abulhasan, his Kuwaiti counterpart, in close consultation yesterday after a security council meeting

## SOVIET UNION

### Kremlin calls time on broker role

From MARY DIVEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW's starring role in Gulf diplomacy appeared to be at an end yesterday, as spokesmen for President Gorbachev and the foreign ministry backed calls for an immediate ceasefire but admitted that there was little they could do to press the Soviet claim. The president's spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, said that the Kremlin would join allied demands that Iraq comply with all 12 resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

President Gorbachev himself was in Minsk, the Belarussian capital, where he told

local tractor workers about Soviet peace efforts and said that the Middle East would remain potentially explosive unless there was an overall settlement of political conflicts in the region. The Soviet leader's decision to leave Moscow after the failure of his personal diplomatic efforts was eloquent testimony to the fact that, with the war almost won, Soviet diplomacy was of little account.

The foreign ministry called an unusual morning press conference to publicise Moscow's call for an immediate ceasefire now that President

Saddam Hussein had ordered his troops to withdraw. But the atmosphere was subdued and the ministry spokesman, Vitali Churkin, was not in the best of tempers, from time to time augmenting remarks made by Aleksandr Belonogov, the deputy foreign minister responsible for Middle East policy. Mr Belonogov, for his part, surprised reporters by declining to exclude the possibility of resumed Soviet arms sales to Iraq once the war was over. "There are no restrictions in the UN Security Council resolutions in this respect."

Recounting the latest events, Mr Belonogov said that a message from Saddam, in which he agreed to withdraw from Kuwait, had been taken to the Soviet embassy in Baghdad late on Monday night by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. Mr Belonogov said that the contents of the message had been passed to Moscow and then to Washington. "As soon as Moscow knew about the handover of the letter, we officially informed the United States that Iraq had started to comply with UN Security Council resolution 660."

Mr Ignatenko, denied that the Iraqi leader's move was in response to any further Soviet initiative. He said: "Our last contact with Iraq was when Mr Aziz was almost on the steps to his plane."

The Iraqi foreign minister left Moscow on Saturday after four days in which Moscow had tried to secure the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Baghdad's forces from Kuwait.

Asked who was to blame for the "missed chance" of a peaceful settlement, Mr Ignatenko replied unambiguously: "Saddam Hussein." Later, however, he said that America and its allies could have waited "a day, two days" before launching their land assault. He did not echo the bitter view expressed in a Soviet statement the previous day which strongly implied that Washington alone was to blame for "missing the chance for peace".

Asked whether the Soviet Union intended to continue its role as mediator, Mr Ignatenko replied scornfully: "Why should we mediate?"

The Soviet Union's prime objective now appears to be to balance the need to maintain good relations with Washington with the need not to be regarded, at home and abroad, as begging for Western favours. So far, America appears to have understood this.

## UNITED NATIONS

### 12 steps on road to use of force

The 12 security council resolutions against Iraq: August 2, resolution 660 condemned the invasion and demanded that Baghdad withdraw and begin negotiations.

August 6, resolution 661 imposed a trade embargo against Iraq except for medicine and humanitarian food supplies.

August 9, resolution 662 declared Iraq's purported annexation of Kuwait to be null and void.

August 18, resolution 664 demanded Baghdad should allow all foreigners to leave Iraq and Kuwait and should rescind its order closing diplomatic missions in Kuwait.

August 25, resolution 665 authorised a naval blockade using "measures commensurate to the specific circumstances" to enforce sanctions.

September 13, resolution 666 authorised humanitarian food shipments but only if they were distributed through international aid agencies.

September 16, resolution 667 condemned Iraqi raids on diplomatic premises in Kuwait.

September 24, resolution 669 asked the security council's sanctions committee for recommendations on economic assistance to other nations affected by the embargo.

September 25, resolution 670 banned all except exempt cargo flights to Iraq and called on states to detain Iraqi-flagged sanctions-breaking ships.

October 29, resolution 674 demanded Iraq stop taking hostages and oppressing Kuwait, asked states to document evidence of this, and urged the secretary-general to undertake peace efforts.

November 28, resolution 677 asked the secretary-general to keep safe a smuggled copy of Kuwait's pre-invasion population register to prevent Iraqi repopulation.

November 29, resolution 678 approved use of all necessary means to drive Iraq from Kuwait after January 15.

## BUSH SPEECH

### Dictator 'is not withdrawing'

THE following text is taken from President Bush's speech in response to President Saddam Hussein's announced withdrawal from Kuwait:

"Saddam's most recent speech is an outrage. He is not withdrawing, his defeated forces are retreating. He is trying to claim victory in the midst of a rout. He is not voluntarily giving up Kuwait. He is trying to save the remnants of power and control in the Middle East by every means possible. And here, too, Saddam Hussein will fail."

"Saddam is not interested in peace but only to regroup and fight another day. And he does not renounce Iraq's claim to Kuwait. To the contrary, he makes clear that Iraq continues to claim Kuwait. Nor is there any evidence of remorse for Iraq's aggression, or any indication that Saddam is prepared to accept responsibility for the awful consequences of that aggression. He still does not accept the UN Security Council resolutions or the coalition terms of February 22, including the release of our POWs, all POWs, third country detainees and an end to the pathological destruction of Kuwait. The coalition will, therefore, continue to prosecute the war with undiminished intensity."

"We have no choice but to consider retreating combat units as a threat and respond accordingly. Anything else would risk additional United States and coalition casualties. The best way to avoid further casualties on both sides is for the Iraqi soldiers to lay down their arms."

"From the beginning of the air operation nearly six weeks ago, I had said that our efforts are on schedule. This morning, I am very pleased to say that coalition efforts are ahead of schedule. The liberation of Kuwait is close at hand. And let me just add that I share the pride of all the American people in the magnificent, heroic performance of our armed forces. May God bless them and keep them."

SADDAM SPEECH

### 'Victory is sweet with God's help'

EXCERPTS from President Saddam Hussein's announcement that Iraqi troops are being withdrawn from Kuwait:

"Iraqis... will not forget that on August 8, 1990, [Kuwait] became part of Iraq legally, constitutionally and actually. This situation continued from August 8, 1990, until last night when withdrawal began, and with God's will the pullout will be completed today..."

"Special circumstances made Iraq's army withdrawal owing to complications already stated, including aggression by 30 countries and the siege imposed on Iraq. These states are headed by criminal America."

"Everybody will remember that the gates of Constantinople were not opened to Muslims from the first attempt and that the cause of dear Palestine which has been neglected by the international community is now again knocking at the closed doors to force them to solve it, no matter how hard the aggressors tried to obstruct this and

thanks to the struggle of Palestinians and Iraqis..."

"Shout for victory, O brothers, shout for your victory and the victory of all honourable people, O Iraqis. You have fought 30 countries, and all the evil and the largest machine of war and destruction in the world that surrounds them. The soldiers of faith have triumphed over the soldiers of wrong, O stalwart men. Your God is the one who granted your victory."

"You have chosen the path which you have chosen, including the acceptance of the Soviet initiative, but those evildoers persisted in their path and methods, thinking that they can impose their will on Iraq, as they imagined and hoped. This hope of theirs may remain in their heads, even after we withdraw from Kuwait. Therefore, we must be cautious, and preparedness to fight must remain at the highest level."

"May the lowly be defeated. Victory is sweet with the help of God."





Hopes and fears: Ghazi al-Rayes, the Kuwaiti ambassador to London, top left, welcomes the latest news; an old Jordanian, top right, listens in Amman to Saddam's withdrawal announcement; a drawing, above right, by a five-year-old Kuwaiti, in Sharjah, depicts an Iraqi soldier murdering a civilian; and Iraqi prisoners taken by the US 1st Marine Division march into captivity

## Humiliation of troops could inflame Arabs

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

POWERFUL CNN television pictures of Iraqi soldiers leaving their foxholes and kneeling, humiliated, in front of their American captors will anger many people in much of the Arab world and could lead to a wave of anti-Western feeling.

In many countries where pro-Saddam feeling has been running high, the sudden withdrawal from Kuwait has come as a shock. Jordanians have denounced it as surrender. In North Africa public opinion had deceived itself with pro-Iraqi slogans that Iraq was winning. In Muslim countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia, the sudden collapse of the Iraqi army will be seen as yet



Arafat: PLO must work hard to repair its image

another defeat of Islam by the West.

Western politicians are increasingly worried that bitterness at the Iraqi defeat may lead to riots similar to those after the Arab-Israeli war. President Mitterrand of France in particular has expressed concern that disillusion and disappointment will give way to violence among Arabs in France as well as in the Maghreb, where Western interests are likely to be the first target. Spain and Italy have also warned of worsening relations between Europe and the Arab world.

Even in those countries supporting the coalition there is an undercurrent of resentment, especially on the left and among intellectuals, at the overwhelming Western military superiority, coupled with grudging admiration for President Saddam Hussein for having withstood the combined onslaught of the allies for 40 days.

The television pictures of Iraqis pleading with American soldiers evoke bitter memories in many Arabs. They recall the triumphant Israeli film of Egyptians surrendering en masse in Sinai in 1967.

Popular reaction in Jordan may be typical of the feeling in many countries outside the Gulf region. "This is a trick. Someone is imitating the voice of Saddam Hussein. It

can't be him saying he wants to withdraw," one man said. In much of the Arab world there is a predisposition to believe in Western manipulation and bad faith.

The main danger, according to Western analysts, is that the sense of humiliation, especially among Palestinians, will carry over into attempts to settle other conflicts in the Middle East, particularly the Arab-Israeli question. Palestinians now feel neglected and abandoned, both by Arab governments and by the West, and this is likely to make their leaders less willing to compromise.

Dr Nabil Shaath, diplomatic adviser to Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, admitted in London last week that the PLO had much to do to repair its image. But he expressed deep scepticism about Washington's willingness to exert enough pressure to get the Israelis to attend a peace conference.

Iraq's defeat will also highlight the divisions in the Arab world and the sense of frustration at its disarray. In North Africa support for Saddam has been used largely by opposition groups to embarrass unpopular governments. A combination of social pressures and resentment of the West's influence lies beneath many demonstrations in Muslim countries.

### FRANCE

## Paris fears speech may be ruse

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRANCE yesterday joined in the chorus of allied demands that Iraq accept all UN resolutions on Kuwait before a ceasefire is arranged, but Paris said: "Saddam Hussein at last has decided to speak seriously."

A spokesman for the Quai d'Orsay, Daniel Bernard, took an optimistic view of the Iraqi leader's speech, claiming that the dictator for the first time had referred to Kuwait "as a different entity to Iraq". But French military circles expressed concern that the

speech might be a ruse to cover an imminent Iraqi counter-attack.

French strategists are wary in case Iraqi Republican Guards ostensibly retreating might trap French and American units out on a limb in southern Iraq in a surprise pincer movement.

Roland Dumas, the foreign minister said: "France will not run the risk of a delaying manoeuvre," and that Baghdad "must conform to all the UN decisions before the means for an eventual

ceasefire are examined". Paris also agreed with Washington that there was no question of Iraqi troops being allowed to take their heavy equipment with them as they leave the emirate. "Iraq cannot continue to play tricks," M Bernard said. "It is sufficient that it express its clear willingness to respect the resolution of the United Nations and stop the war."

The *Le Monde* newspaper said it would be unacceptable to allow Saddam to escape without making reparations.

### ISRAEL

## Military fears Scud threat remains

REACTING to President Saddam Hussein's speech, Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said yesterday that it was essential to Israeli security for the Iraqi dictator to "disappear from the international arena".

Advising Israelis to keep their gas masks close to hand, Brigadier General Nahman Shai, an army spokesman, said that as long as Scud missile batteries remained in western Iraq "the threat stands".

A more optimistic note was sounded by Yitzhak Rabin, the former defence minister, who said he thought Iraq was now less able to carry out Saddam's threat to use chemical weapons. "I believe Iraq is now on the verge of total collapse, at least militarily," he said on army radio. (AP)

### GERMANY

The German government stood by the American decision to continue the war. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said after President Saddam Hussein's broadcast declaring that his troops were being ordered to withdraw from Kuwait (Ian Murray writes).

Germany understood fully the allies' position that Iraq must accept all the terms of the United Nations resolutions and his government supported them in this aim, Herr Kohl said.

### IRAN

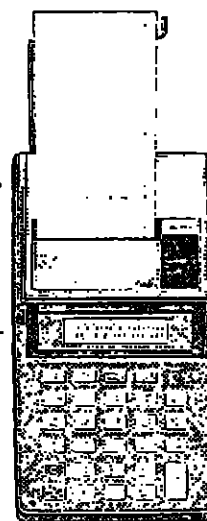
The Iranians heaped scorn yesterday on Iraq for its "deadly delay" in deciding to withdraw from Kuwait. Tehran radio said the retreat could lead to peace, but said American insistence on toppling President Saddam Hussein could worsen the situation.

The station said that President Rafsanjani of Iran spoke of "incorrect calculations of Iraqi leaders and their delay in deciding to pull out of Kuwait" in a meeting with Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister of India, in Tehran during a Gulf peace mission. (Reuters)

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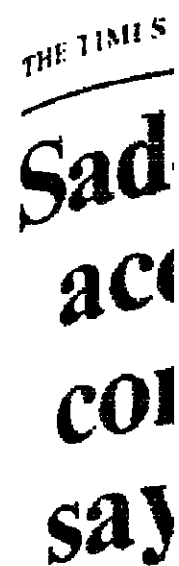


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## Protest continues fighting

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He told a press conference in Manchester that he welcomed the Wilson recommendations, in particular the proposal that prisoners should not be overcrowded in their cells.

## Condom rule

The Dublin court yesterday upheld a writ against the Irish Farming Association for selling condoms in stores in the city. It also increased an earlier fine to £400 for a High Court judge who had told the association not off limits.

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CORRECT

cause of an editorial article on January 25, 1968, in the Los Angeles Times, which took part in the findings.

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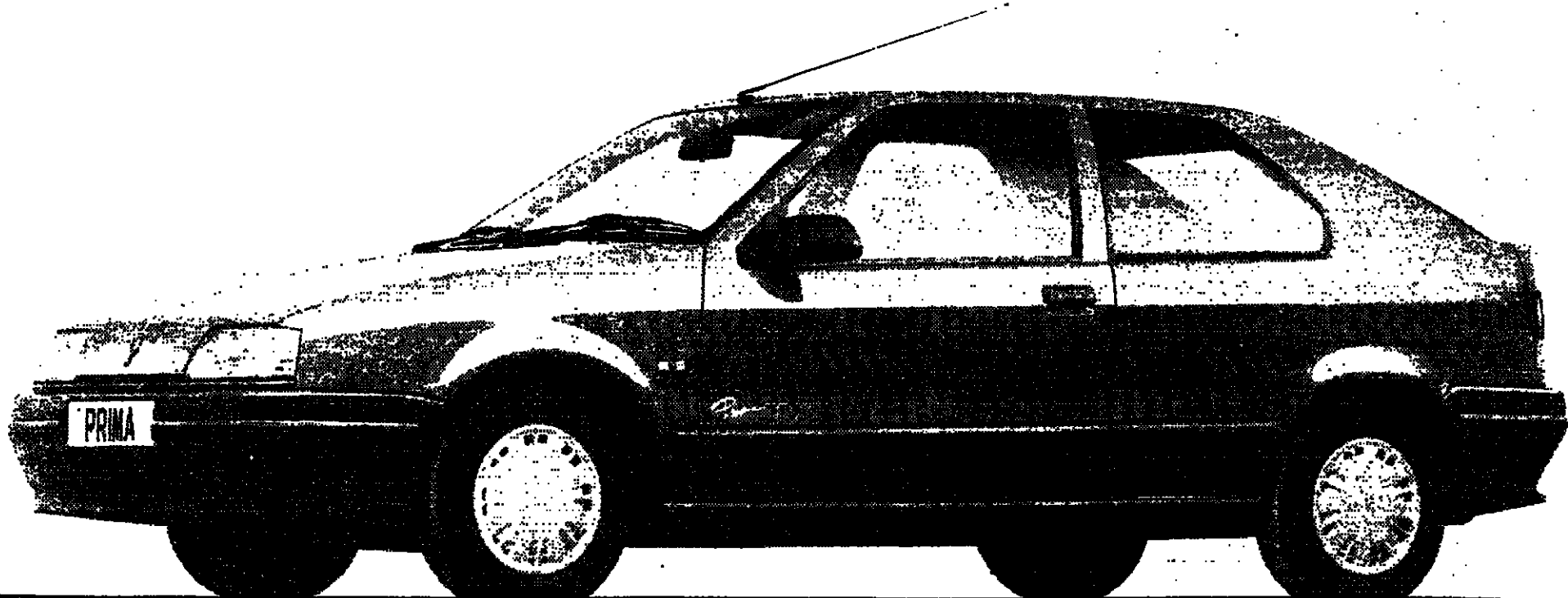
of the driver's seat up, it offers, on a budget, more of what you actually drive for. Enjoyment.

And because it's been so well considered, within the range there's inevitably one that will suit you perfectly. The model shown here features a 1.4 litre 60 bhp engine, bodyside moulding and full wheel trims.

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RENAULT 19. THINK ABOUT IT. WE HAVE.

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# Saddam must accept UN conditions, says Major

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Gulf war would not end until Saddam Hussein publicly accepted United Nations terms, the prime minister told the Commons yesterday. Mr Major also said that all Iraqi troops would be treated as hostile until they abandoned their weapons and withdrew unarmoured from the war theatre.

## Protests at continued fighting

By PETER VICTOR

THE continued prosecution of the Gulf war despite the Iraqi retreat from Kuwait would not be forgiven by right-thinking people, anti-war Labour MPs and campaigners said in London yesterday.

The comments came from members of Labour Against the War, a group set up two and a half weeks ago, and backed by Labour MPs, and senior trade union and Labour local authority figures. Three MPs, Tony Benn, Gavin Strang and Jeremy Corbyn, represented the group, as did Greg Tucker, a Lambeth Labour councillor.

Mr Strang, MP for Edinburgh East, said: "I think there would be tremendous outrage throughout the world against continuing military action."

Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, said: "Bush's aim seems to be the occupation of all or part of Iraq and the imposition of a US puppet government."

Mr Benn, MP for Chesterfield, said the war had been like a spectator sport.

their arms. It was made clear later that retreating unarmoured Iraqis, who were likely to be overtaken by the advancing allied forces, would probably be made prisoners of war for their own safety.

Mr Major told MPs that there was a clear threat of an attempted return to Kuwait in the comment by Saddam that "The gates of Constantinople were not opened to Muslims at the first attempt". That threat had to be removed using all necessary means. "We simply cannot and do not trust him," Mr Major said.

It was made clear at Westminster last night that Britain is prepared to countenance the temporary holding of some Iraqi territory as a buffer zone between Iraq and Kuwait until a formal peace settlement is achieved. Clear signals were being sent to the Iraqis that peace terms would be harsher with Saddam Hussein still in charge of Iraq than under another leader.

In the Commons, Tom King, the defence secretary, suggested that reports of atrocities in Kuwait were well short of the true horrors, and he promised vigorous efforts to see prosecuted those responsible for war crimes. There were Tory cries of "disgraceful" when Tony Benn spoke of brutal savagery by both sides in the war. When Mr Benn said that there was no United Nations authority for the peace terms now sought by the allies, Mr King accused him of a tragic inability to see things in any balanced sense.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, drew agreement from Mr King when he listed the conditions for an end to the war as a formal and unequivocal acceptance by Saddam of all 12 United Nations security council resolutions, supervision arrangements for the Iraqi withdrawal, leaving behind arms and equipment, disclosure of minefields, a commitment not to launch further missile attacks on Saudi Arabia or Israel, release of POWs and Kuwaiti detainees and immediate access to POWs by the Red Cross.



Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff, and Tom King, the defence secretary, arriving for a meeting of the war cabinet yesterday

## One British serviceman killed in land war

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ONLY one British serviceman has been killed by direct enemy action during the land battle against Iraqi forces, the defence ministry confirmed at 3pm yesterday, and only 13 in all have died - mostly from accidents - since British forces arrived in the Gulf.

The serviceman's name and the circumstances of his death have been given to his next of kin but will not be released until today.

Altogether 12 aircrew have been reported missing, of whom two are known to have survived, having been forced to appear on Iraqi television in the early days of the air battle. However these two remain "missing" because the Red Cross has not been allowed access to them and cannot confirm them as prisoners of war.

The ministry said: "The losses are remarkably light, particularly considering the early predictions, and a lot of people are surprised. It is an indication of the success of the air assault."

The two latest reported deaths "on active service" are of Private Shaun Taylor, aged 20, of the 1st Staffordshire Regiment, and Private Alistair Fogarty, 21, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Pte

Taylor, a single man from Stourbridge, West Midlands, had been in the army for three years, and Pte Fogarty, also single, who came from Cheshire, had served for three-and-a-half years.

The MoD was unable to say how Pte Taylor died but confirmed it was accidental, and said Pte Fogarty was killed on February 22 after falling from a supplies truck.

Pte Fogarty's father said from the family home in Cheshire, Hulme, Stockport: "He joined the army not long after leaving school. We loved him very much and he will be missed."

The parents of Pte Taylor were told of their son's death on Monday. Dennis Taylor, aged 44, a furniture remover from Stourbridge, said: "I don't see him as a hero or anything other than my son."

He obeyed orders and did his job to the best of his ability. I know he won't have died in vain.

"I don't have any political or bad view of this war, which I believe is God's will to fulfil the scriptures - although it doesn't always work out as we would want."

Mr Taylor said that since his son was sent to Saudi Arabia "God touched his heart and spoke to him". "He started reading the Bible and praying and I believe Shaun is in heaven now through God touching his heart."

Pte Taylor's mother, Kathleen, said a major and a woman in civilian clothes told her that her son died from bullet wounds near to the front line. The deaths of three other British soldiers were announced on Monday.

## Tax fears set PM against school funding transfer

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND DOUGLAS BROOM

THE prime minister is supporting the Treasury in its effort to stave off attempts by the environment and education secretaries to transfer the responsibility for education from local authorities to central government.

John Major is understood

to be resisting the change because of its likely effects on income tax. If carried out overnight, the transfer of spending from town halls to the exchequer would add about 6p in the pound to the basic rate of tax. Mr Major favours lowering taxes and is wary of any changes that make that more difficult to achieve.

Neither Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, nor Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, is pressing for an immediate switch of responsibility. They want to see a rolling programme of schools opting out of local authority control. The argument within the cabinet centres on the pace at which that change should be achieved.

It is understood that Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke want to improve the incentives for schools to ballot parents on whether to become grant maintained and so achieve a big expansion within the next two or three years. At that point, they would consider making direct funding com-

pulsory. Phasing out the local contribution towards the cost of education over a few years, however, would increase the pressure on tax revenues.

Meanwhile Mr Major is being urged to resolve a dispute over poll tax capping that threatens the jobs of 800 police officers.

David Blunkett, Labour local government spokesman, asked the prime minister in a letter yesterday to dispel the confusion over suggestions that police authorities might be capped for increasing manpower in line with Home Office recommendations. He said that the Home Office and the environment department had given conflicting advice to chief constables and local authorities.

Five chief constables have given a warning of severe manpower cuts if they have to keep within their spending limits. Mr Blunkett said "if the rules are to be relaxed it is important that an indication is given now before final budgets are made."

## Governor criticises closures

Brendan O'Friel, former governor of Strangeways prison, Manchester, and chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, yesterday accused the government of rushing to close small prison units, which were in the vanguard of prison reform (Ronald Faux writes).

He told a press conference in Manchester that he warmly welcomed the Woolf recommendations, in particular the proposal that prison populations should not exceed jail capacities.

## Condom ruling

The Dublin circuit court yesterday upheld a conviction against the Irish Family Planning Association for illegally selling condoms in a Virgin store in the city. The judge also increased an earlier fine from £400 to £500, refused leave for a High Court appeal and told the association it had got off lightly.

## Dance honour

The prima ballerina Antoinette Sibley has been appointed acting president of the Royal Academy of Dancing after the death of Dame Margot Fonteyn, it was announced last night.

## CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, the article on amphibious warfare that appeared on February 25 wrongly suggested that the US Marine Corps took part in the Gallipoli landings.

## Driver silent at rail death-crash enquiry

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE driver of the commuter train that crashed into buffers at Cannon Street station in London last month in an accident that killed two people refused yesterday to give evidence to the public enquiry into the accident.

The driver, Morris Graham, aged 24, was acting on the advice of his barrister, Allan Gore, who said that in view of the possibility of criminal proceedings, he could not be expected to answer questions that might incriminate him.

Mr Gore said that Mr Graham had co-operated fully with British Rail's internal enquiry into the accident. Mr Graham is understood to have told that enquiry that the accident was due to brake failure.

However, British Rail had later issued a statement ruling

out brake failure, which had important implications for his client, Mr Gore said. The case is thought to be the first time a driver has refused to co-operate with an official railway accident investigation.

Earlier, Paul Green, who was in the cab with Mr Graham, told the enquiry that he heard Mr Graham shout "I've lost the EP", referring to the electro-pneumatic brake. Mr Green said that he saw Mr Graham release the driver's safety device, and felt the emergency brake go on.

Earlier, a British Rail instructor said that drivers had no practical training in using the emergency brake, because it stops a train on a sixpence, and can cause injury to passengers and damage to trains. The enquiry resumes today.



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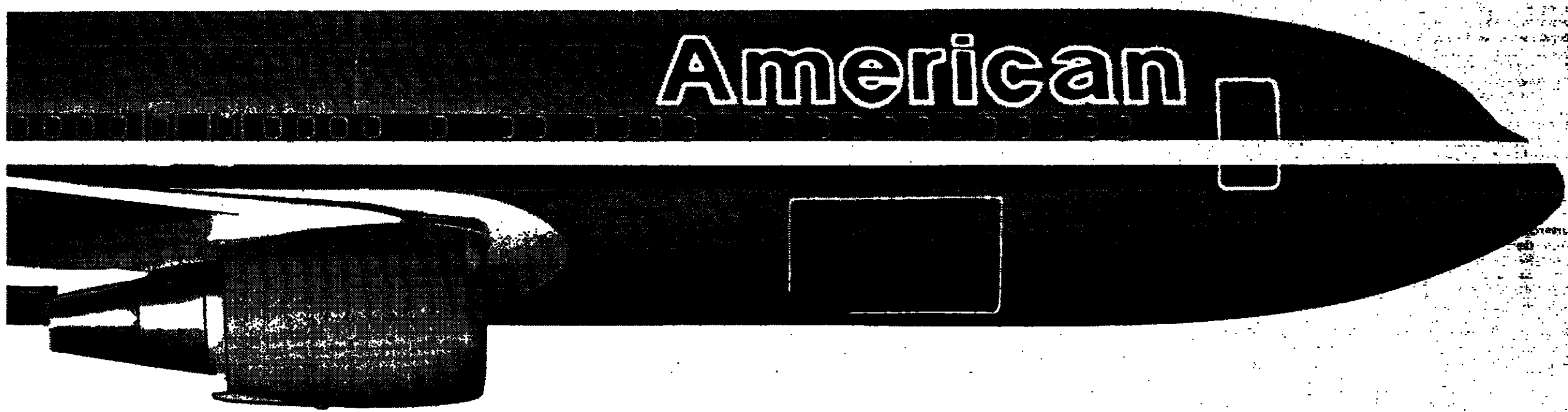
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THE TIMES

How  
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By Nicholas...

THE Treasury voted an extra £1 for training the unemployed in a will be... Conservative MP... sign that John Major... political pressure... Labour has made... a central p... strategy for the re... On Monday, Labour... proposed a... the main... which included... and... poll tax... firm that... ers from... than from... Yesterday's... in the... Howard... secretary... the... being... to... from April...

Child al  
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A police enquiry at... of widespread... in Stafford... door's... was... yesterday. The... Public Prosecutions... there was no... warrant... prosecution... service workers.

The enquiry... allegations of ill-treatment... made to... department... were... Staffordshire. Poli... counts... the result of an... Alan Lewis, 48, the... place... used... home, which... being kept on the... for long periods.

PC accused

William Phillips... who... this... awarded £10,000... from... Metropolitan... in... documents... sent for... London... of a... in custody... home... at... magistrates' court... city's... said... sentenced the...

Officers pa

Prison officers... keep a man out of... mind... Liverpool... said... £1... man was... to... on him at the start... do... for non... of a... so... made up to £25... keeping the man... would have been £20... Grenville Lomas, ch... the Prison Officers'... union at Walton, said...

MP in court

Harry Greenway, 6... MP for... at... Street... court, central... yesterday, accused... charges of... He was given... until April 9. I... restrictions were not...

Raider disa

A customer waiting... at... Bank... home, Berkshire, a... man carrying a... loaded shotgun... yesterday. One... but no one was... the raider and his... escaped with £5,000.

Plant open

Michael H... environment... secretary... opened a £2.5m... plant at... Cumbria, which... radioactive... waste into... storage... on... containers.

Corn

By... the...

THE Cornish... and more... Frank... sure of... the... last... And if it does die... become of the... parliamentary... 1991 to... but used more... miners' descendants... to avoid paying the... The attempt to... poll tax was a failure... Fred Trull, a member... of... of... of...



# Howard wins extra £120m for long-term unemployed

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury yesterday conceded an extra £120 million for training the long-term unemployed in a move that will be widely seen by Conservative MPs as another sign that John Major is prepared to respond quickly to political pressures.

Labour has made the "skills crisis" a central plank of its strategy for the next election. On Monday Labour unveiled proposals aimed at reviving the manufacturing industry, which included training targets and guarantees and a payroll tax of up to 0.5 per cent for firms that poach skilled workers from competitors rather than train them themselves.

Yesterday's announcement in the Commons by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, that the employment training (ET) budget is being increased to £880 million from April was a direct

reponse to the opposition assault and another sign that an election may not be long delayed. It was also recognition that, with unemployment rising by at least 50,000 a month, the government has to intensify its efforts to get people back into work.

Mr Howard said that the money would go to the 82 training and enterprise councils in England and Wales and the 23 local enterprise companies in Scotland to increase the effectiveness of employment training. Local businesses will use the extra cash to deliver the government's guarantee of a training place to those out of work for between six and 12 months. Schemes will be tailored to local labour needs.

However, the concession by David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, failed to satisfy Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, who accused ministers of abandoning the jobless. Mr Blair said that the new money was less than a third of the £365 million cut from the ET budget for the coming financial year. Britain had the fastest-rising unemployment in Europe.

The promises would be taken seriously only when the government removed the threat to thousands of training places and stopped putting training agencies out of business, Mr Blair said.

Mr Howard dismissed Labour's protests as unjustified, and said: "Nothing remotely comparable to ET was available when the Opposition were last in office. They have opposed every training initiative that this government has introduced. It makes their claims to be the guardians of training entirely laughable."

Mr Howard said that John Smith, the shadow chancellor, had undermined the credibility of Labour's promises by not including its training proposals among its immediate priorities for government.

"What we are devoting to ET is at least £120 million more than Labour," he said.

The new money is on top of the £3 billion budget for the employment department in 1991/2 announced by Norman Lamont, when chief secretary, in the autumn statement. This was in line with earlier plans but still £250 million less than the previous year. In the last spending round Mr Howard defeated a Treasury attempt to make further cuts of several hundred million pounds. None the less, under the plans announced in the autumn, the department budget is projected to fall to £2.8 billion, after allowing for inflation, in 1992/3.

## Management firm becomes arts patron

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

NEW works of art are to come to the National Theatre, Tate Gallery and English National Opera in a unique form of joint sponsorship, it was announced by Tim Renton, the arts minister, yesterday. Each is to benefit equally from a three-year, £220,000 scheme funded by KPMG, a firm of management consultants, in its first arts patronage.

The sponsorship will result in an exhibition of new work by the sculptor Sir Anthony Caro at the Tate, the commissioning and staging of a new opera for the ENO from the composer Jonathan Harvey for 1993.

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, said: "There are important advantages to be drawn from a cross-over of audiences. Museums are often supposed to be concerned

with the heritage, but heritage is concerned with the future as well as the past."

Because of the KPMG sponsorship the National Theatre is also to benefit under the arts minister's business sponsorship incentive scheme with a grant of £12,000 to help train new playwrights.



Renton: £12,000 grant to train new playwrights

## No more hush on the cathedral close

Michael McCarthy reports on a bitterly contested plan for a road into Salisbury's cathedral close

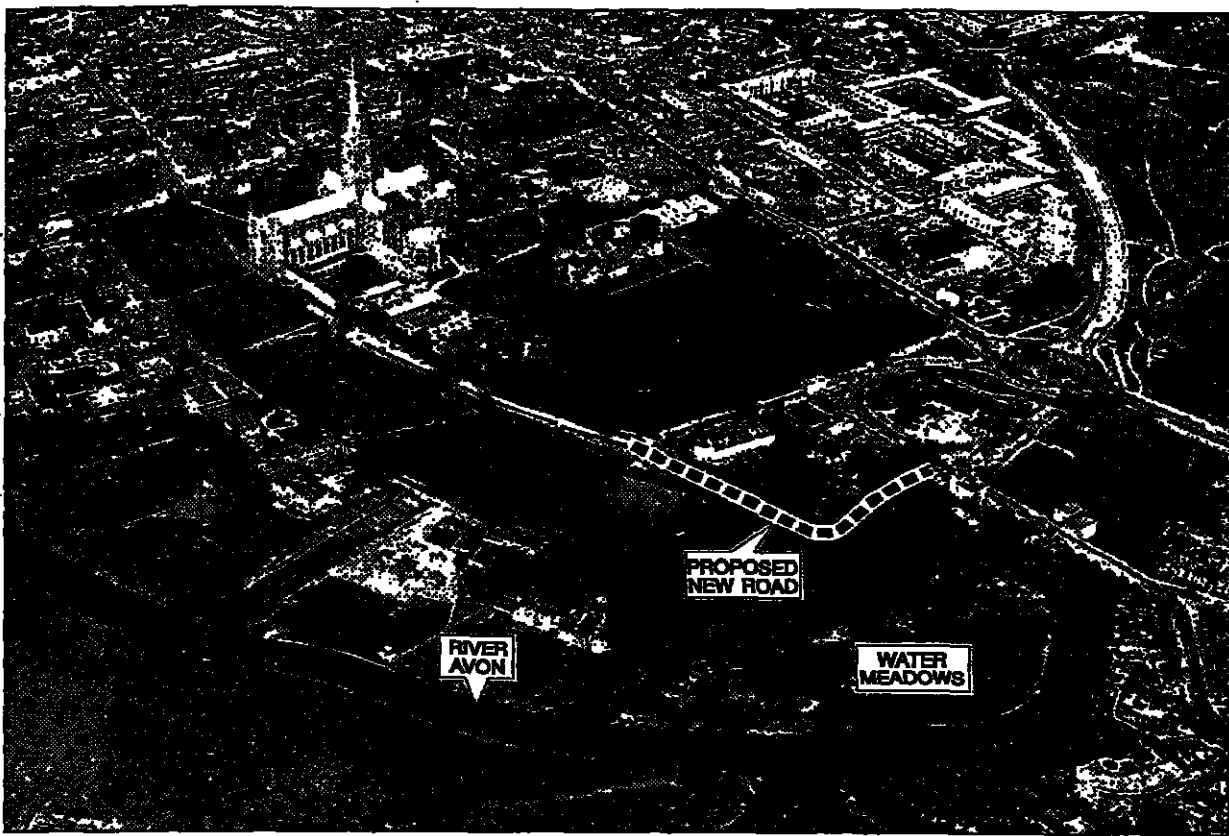
A BITTER dispute is likely over a plan by the dean and chapter of Salisbury Cathedral to build an access road into the celebrated cathedral close, the unspoiled medieval open space framing the cathedral with wide lawns and Georgian houses.

The new road, raised on an embankment to avoid flooding from the Avon, would cut through an orchard and water meadow at the close's southern end, across a landscape often painted by Constable that has to this day retained a tranquil rural character.

Although details of the proposal have not been made public, the dean, the Very Rev Hugh Dickinson, and the chapter have agreed to pay £350,000 for a house and land adjoining the close, a purchase made necessary for the new road to be built. Contracts were exchanged last week.

Critics say the road would destroy the pastoral charm of the meadowland fringing the Avon. Ian Fleming-Williams, a leading Constable specialist, said: "It would be an appalling act of vandalism. The English cathedral closes are unique in European ecclesiastical architecture and Salisbury is quite the finest."

Residents of the southern end of the close are intensely opposed to the plan. They include Jill Baker, wife of the Bishop of Salisbury, the



The line of the proposed access road to Salisbury Cathedral close superimposed on an aerial view

Right Rev John Baker. Although the bishop declined to comment, Mrs Baker said: "This road scheme would ruin this unique and beautiful part of the close. It would be a tragedy."

The dean feels that the new road is preferable to continued use of the narrow medieval north gate into the close, which has been badly damaged by a lorry and is closed for repairs, and presents the best solution to the vexed question of traffic access to the houses, museums and schools in the

close. Only a small piece of meadowland would be taken by the road, and it would be properly landscaped, he said.

Mr Dickinson accepted, however, that the meadowland would no longer be "untrammelled" and that there would be forceful opposition to the plan. "I am wearing a bullet-proof vest at the moment," he said. "There is no solution without pain to this problem. But for better or worse we have been given responsibility for the long-term

future of this marvellous environment and we have to act according to the very best professional advice."

The road is one of four traffic access options in a management plan for the close commissioned from a firm of London architects by the dean and chapter in conjunction with English Heritage and the Cathedrals Advisory Commission, which tomorrow becomes the Cathedrals Fabric Commission (CFC). "All the senior people in English Heritage are in favour of the

road, and the CFC is entirely in favour of it," the dean said.

Jane Sharman, head of English Heritage's conservation division, declined to give an unequivocal endorsement of the road proposal, however. "It is an option that should be looked at very carefully, given the problems of the close, but we have not yet signed up to anything," she said.

The road plan is subject to normal planning processes.

Leading article, page 15

## Lawyers challenge selection of judges

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Law Society today steps up pressure on the Lord Chancellor to reform the way in which judges are appointed. The society is publishing a report in which it is suggested that the present system may be illegal on the grounds of indirect racial discrimination.

The report says: "The fact that ethnic minorities are under-represented in senior legal ranks raises the question whether the oral recommendations used by the Lord Chancellor to make senior appointments are indirectly discriminatory." There are no judges from an ethnic minority among High Court and appeal court judges, one among the 434 circuit judges, three out of 703 recorders and two out of 484 assistant recorders.

The report by Geoffrey Bindman, a solicitor who was formerly legal adviser to the Commission for Racial Equality, is published today. Tomorrow the Law Society and Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, meet to discuss appointments to the bench from the ethnic minorities. The society has expressed concern at the poor rate of appointment and is to put forward reform proposals. In his report, Mr Bindman says that one of the most common circumstances in which members of ethnic minorities are excluded from employment is where recruitment to an all-white or predominantly white workforce occurs "by word of mouth". One feature of the judicial appointments system is "word of mouth" opinions of candidates from existing judges.

In a linked move today, Anthony Scriven, QC, chairman of the Bar, adds his voice to the calls for a reform of the appointments system, urging that more solicitors be appointed judges, that there be more promotions from the circuit bench to the High Court bench and suggesting a judicial commission to advise on appointments.

"It is not necessarily the best advocates who make the best judges," he says. "The qualities needed are different. There is no reason why a solicitor who has climbed up the ladder from assistant recorder to recorder cannot be a High Court judge."

## Child abuse enquiry called off

A police enquiry into allegations of widespread physical abuse in Staffordshire children's homes was dropped yesterday. The Director of Public Prosecutions ruled that there was no evidence to warrant prosecution of social services workers.

The enquiry began after allegations of ill-treatment of children made to the health department were passed to Staffordshire Police. The county council is still awaiting the results of an enquiry by Allan Levy, QC, into a discipline system used in some homes, which involved children being kept in their own rooms for long periods.

## PC accused

PC William Halliday, aged 31, who earlier this month was awarded £1,000 compensation from the Metropolitan Police for racial discrimination, was yesterday sent for trial at Southwark crown court, south London, accused of assaulting a man in custody. After the hearing at Horseferry Road magistrates' court, PC Halliday's solicitor said that his client denied the charges.

## Officers pay up

Prison officers paid 97p to keep a man out of Wilton remand centre, Liverpool, and saved taxpayers £1,000. The man was found to have £24.03 on him at the start of a five-day sentence for non-payment of a £25 fine so the officers made it up to £25. The cost of keeping the man in custody would have been £200 a night, Greenville Lomax, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at Walton, said.

## MP in court

Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, appeared at Bow Street magistrates' court, central London, yesterday, accused of seven charges of accepting bribes. He was given unconditional bail until April 9. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

## Raider disarmed

A customer waiting to be served at Lloyds Bank, in Croydon, Surrey, disarmed a man carrying a double-barrelled shotgun during a robbery yesterday. One shot was fired but no one was hurt and the raider and his accomplice escaped with £5,000.

## Plant opened

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, yesterday opened a £240 million vitrification plant at Sellafield, Cumbria, which converts radioactive liquid nuclear waste into glass blocks for storage in stainless steel containers.

## Non-unionised workers 'winning better pay deals'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements in companies that do not recognise trade unions are consistently higher than in unionised firms, according to an academic analysis of wage deals.

The study, based on pay information collected by the Confederation of British Industry, is the first authoritative analysis suggesting that the direct economic power of trade unions over wages — as opposed to their membership numbers or the proportion of employees they organise — declined in the 1980s.

The TUC general council, which meets today, is likely to view the results gloomily. The council is at present reviewing the function of trade unionism in Britain, including the impact of unions on collective bargaining.

The CBI, which yesterday

said that present pay settlements in manufacturing industry are showing their largest fall for four years, does not publish the results of its regular Pay Databank monitor of settlement levels categorised according to whether companies do or do not recognise unions.

However, the study carried out at Surrey university uses unpublished CBI pay data to show that throughout the 1980s the average level of pay settlements was "consistently higher" for non-union groups of employees without collective bargaining.

In every year apart from 1979-80, when the newly elected Conservative government met the awards recommended by the previous Labour government's Clegg commission for heavily unionised public sector workers, the average non-union settlement was higher.

In 1980-1 non-union settlements were on average 8 per cent higher than union deals. In 1985-6 they were 6.6 per cent higher, and in 1988-9, the last year studied, they were 5.5 per cent higher.

The study, carried out by Peter Ingram of the university's economics department and published in the latest issue of the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, concludes that the union wage gap — the difference between the wages of unionised workers and non-union employees — contracted throughout the 1980s, and particularly since 1984.

Checkout staff at Tesco were yesterday offered a 17.7 per cent wage increase as part of a productivity related pay deal described by the company as the best in the retail industry.

The agreement, which will give weekly rates of pay of £153.87 in London and £136.87 elsewhere, was agreed after a two-year job evaluation scheme between the company and the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.

## Solicitor opens DIY law shop

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE country's first do-it-yourself law shop, where for a fixed fee people will receive professional advice on solving legal problems, is to open in Bristol next month.

The law shop is the idea of Peter Browne, a solicitor, who sees it as filling the gap between visiting a centre that provides free legal advice and paying a solicitor privately. "People will be able to come in and work on a case, with full access to a range of text books, forms and other

materials, as well as specially designed DIY kits," he said. "The magic ingredient is the duty solicitor, who floats around and helps anyone with practical difficulties."

The shop will be set up for a trial period, operating from a hired room at a school for one evening a week between five and eight o'clock. There will be a fixed £6 fee for the three-hour session. If successful, Mr Browne plans to move the shop into the high street and open it every day. He believes

that the scheme has potential for a national chain of law shops and he is working on a start-up kit to sell to other solicitors. "It could be franchised to other solicitors and marketed under the 'law shop' logo."

Mr Browne has cleared the scheme with his professional insurers and says that the shop will stand by the legal advice it gives. He said that the scheme would help to save his conscience over the large fees charged by his profession.

## Cornish tin men's reluctant farewell

By JOE JOSEPH

THE Cornish tin industry has said more farewells than Frank Sinatra. So is the closure of its last two mines, announced this week, really its last encore?

And if it does die, what will become of the colorful Stannary parliament, created in 1198 to supervise tin mining but used more recently by miners' descendants as a tool to avoid paying the poll tax? The attempt to avoid the poll tax was a failure. Worse, Fred Trull, a member of the Stannary parliament, was convicted of coming thousands

who could claim no "tinners" in the family tree. He told them that if they bought shares in his Royal Cornish Consuls United Tin Mining Cost Book Company they would be exempt from poll tax under an ancient charter.

The environment department snuffed. The police questioned Mr Trull about £1.25 million he raised from the public. Mr Trull was sentenced to six months in jail, but the sentence was halved and suspended for two years after he promised to co-operate with police in tracing the missing money.

What could mark the end of

the Cornish tin industry came when the trade department refused to write any more cheques to keep Wheal Jane, near Truro, and South Crofty, near Camborne, afloat, with the loss of 450 jobs.

Wheal Jane was pronounced dead in March last year, only to be revived in August. The mine is now being left to flood, making another renaissance unlikely. Volunteers hope to keep South Crofty ticking over in case tin prices recover enough to make it viable again.

The world price is about £2,800 a tonne. Cornish mines need a price above £5,000 a

tonne to break even. Cornwall's other mine, Geevor, at Land's End, closed a year ago.

Even without tin, the Stannary parliament intends to continue its fight against the poll tax. Carl Skewes, one of its members, said yesterday: "We are waiting for Mr Trull to call another meeting. Even if tin mining dies, the Stannary parliament won't."

"The law on tinners is that it covers all descendants of tinners. Laws are not law in Cornwall until they have been accepted by the Stannary parliament. I'm not paying my poll tax. I've been to court and I'm expecting the bailiffs."

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# Democrats want quick move to one currency

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Liberal Democrats pledged themselves yesterday to rapid progress towards a single European currency and an independent European central bank.

Claiming to be the party that is prepared to take tough decisions and to look to Britain's long-term future, they signalled their willingness to increase income tax rates if that is required to build a better educational system and proposed the scrapping of mortgage tax relief and its replacement by a "housing cost relief" that would extend also to those in rented property. The existing relief would be preserved for present mortgage-holders.

Other proposals in the document, *Shaping Tomorrow, Starting Today*, include the replacement of poll tax by a local income tax, the introduction of road-pricing to cut traffic congestion in cities and the imposition of pollution taxes on the burning of fossil fuels.

In an accompanying letter to supporters, the party leader, Paddy Ashdown, confirms that he will do no deals with other parties in a hung parliament unless they agree to reform of the electoral system. "Above all else, the reform of our outdated and undemocratic voting system is the key to a successful future."

"It is the pre-condition for any fully democratic government for this country. Committed as Liberal Democrats are to a successful future, we shall neither support nor participate in a government which turns its back on reform."

The document, written largely by Lord Holme, promises that the Liberal Democrats will treat the voters as citizens with shared concerns, not as consumers to be coaxed and manipulated. It accuses the government of putting up with second-class public services and being obsessed with a narrow notion of sovereignty and says that Labour has replaced unpopular past policies with bland reassurances without saying what it now believes in.

**Economy:** The Liberal Democrat paper says that the party would move starting to the narrow bands of the exchange-rate mechanism and grant operational independence to the Bank of England. It would initiate laws to curb "merger mania", including a requirement that shareholders are balloted on bids.

The party would entitle every employee to profit sharing and share ownership, boost local economies through investment in fast rail links and create English regional development agencies along the lines of those in Scotland and Wales. Taxation and social security systems would be merged to provide a minimum citizens' income for all.

The document talks of a new "decade of retirement", allowing people to retire at any point between 60 and 70.

**Education:** The party would offer pre-school education from three, improve teachers' pay structures and expand training opportunities for 16-19 year olds.

**Environment:** A "pollution-added tax" would be applied to products and processes that harm the environment and grants would encourage environmentally friendly behaviour.

The Sizewell B pressurised-water reactor nuclear power station would be cancelled. Big road-building projects would be scaled down, tax breaks for company cars would be abolished and road pricing would be introduced in urban areas. But the Liberal Democrats say that those in rural areas dependent on private cars would be aided by the removal of vehicle excise duty.

**Europe:** The party would support important increases in the power of the European parliament, making it a full partner with the council in law-making. It would back the creation of a Europe-wide environmental agency and seek the creation of Community foreign and security policies.



Ashdown: no power deals without electoral reform

The Liberal Democrats would encourage further disarmament talks to include British, French and Chinese warheads and would "target" a 50 per cent reduction in United Kingdom defence spending by the year 2000.

**Electoral and constitutional reform:** the document promises the introduction by a Liberal Democrat government of proportional representation for all elections, using the single transferable vote "wherever possible".

Home rule for Scotland and Wales and regional government in England and Wales are promised, as well as the opening up of government with freedom of information legislation and protection of the individual through the incorporation into United Kingdom law of the European Convention of Human Rights. Ultimately, the party seeks a bill of rights for the UK.

*Shaping Tomorrow, Starting Today* (Liberal Democrats, 4 Cowley St, London SW1P 3NB; £1.95).

## Workers plead for Rosyth base

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

UNION leaders and workers from the Rosyth naval base said yesterday that its closure would damage the nation's defence industry and place additional stress and anxiety on sailors serving in the Gulf.

A delegation of 50 workers travelled from Scotland to put their case against closure to Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, and to Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

The argument that closure of the base, which lies on the Firth of Forth, would lead to the transfer of 3,000 naval personnel and seriously harm the local economy with the loss of 3,750 jobs.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, said: "We are presenting a case that exposes the prejudice and discrimination behind the Ministry of Defence's arguments for closing Rosyth and, based on internal evidence from the ministry's own inquiries, demanding a re-think before damage is done to Fife and Scotland and to the defence needs of Britain."

Bill Morris, deputy general secretary of the transport workers' union, said: "The ministry should not submit hundreds of sailors in the Gulf, whose families are based at Rosyth, to the additional anxiety of not knowing whether they will return to find their base shut."

## Ridley speaks of riots if Tories resurrect rates

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MISGIVINGS on the Conservative right about the direction of policy under John Major surfaced yesterday as Nicholas Ridley urged people who thought like him and Margaret Thatcher to keep the government up to the mark.

The former trade and industry secretary said that it would be a great mistake if the government scrapped the community charge and went back to the rates. If it returned to the rates or some form of capital tax, there would be riots in areas where people would have to pay large amounts of money simply because their house was worth more than other people's.

Mr Ridley's remarks came at the most sensitive time for the government. A cabinet committee is considering Michael Heseltine's plan to replace the community charge with a property tax based on the number of people living in a house.

He insisted that he was not rocking the boat. But his interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme came as right-wing MPs privately express disquiet about a shift in the government's approach across a range of policies, including the economy, the poll tax, Europe and the public services.

The radical right, having lost their most prominent cabinet champions in Mrs Thatcher and Mr Ridley, is anxious that its voice

should not be lost when the manifesto is drawn up.

Mr Ridley said that it would be a great mistake if the government were to ease its tight control of public spending; now would be the worst time to do that.

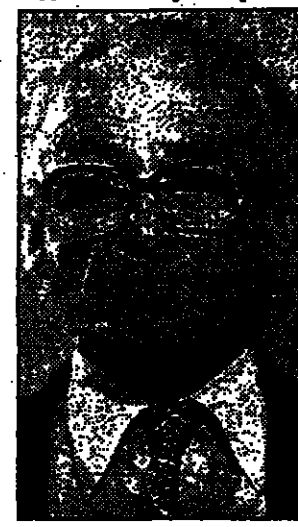
He added that it was too easy to come to conclusions as to whether Mr Major was turning away from Thatcherism. Mr Major had done a good job on the war and was popular. "I think those of us who think as I do, as Mrs Thatcher does, and many other people in politics, should keep laying down the principles on which Conservative government should be conducted," he said. They should keep talking about economy in spend-

ing, balancing the budget, running the economy properly and other principles "in order to keep the government up to the mark".

Mr Ridley conceded that the poll tax, which he steered onto the statute book, was not anybody's jewel in the crown, but any other solution appeared to be worse. "My view is that they may well come back and say, 'well, after all, we have not been able to find anything better'. If we go back to the rates or some form of capital taxation, there would be riots in the areas where people will have to pay very large amounts of money simply because their house is worth more than other people's."

Last week Mr Ridley voiced reservations about views expressed recently by ministers about the public services. He was questioned in a television interview about the views of the Prime Minister and Chris Patten, party chairman, that the standards of public services should be raised so high that the private sector was not the automatic choice of the rich.

Mr Ridley said on the Sky News programme *Now Sir Robin* that if the education or health service was made so good that nobody wanted to go into the private sector it would cost so much that it could not be combined with Mr Major's other welcome tenet that he wanted to see a sound economy.



Ridley: keep government up to the mark

## Far-left attempt to topple Shore likely to be blocked

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT by the far left to topple Peter Shore, the former Labour cabinet minister, is expected to be blocked today when the party's national executive again delays the re-selection process in his east London seat.

At the same time the executive is expected to start ousting 13 suspected Militant Tendency supporters from the Tower Hamlets party, of

which Mr Shore's Bethnal Green and Stepney constituency forms part.

Mr Shore, who bested a determined move to eject him during the 1979-83 Parliament, is expected to be challenged by Phil Maxwell, leader of the Labour group on the Tower Hamlets council.

But there have been allegations about the eligibility of some of the members of Mr Shore's party. A report to the NEC today by Joyce Gould, organisation director, will recommend that the reselection does not begin until all queries are resolved.

She will also propose that 13 people should be suspended from Tower Hamlets party membership for alleged militant involvement. Most of them are understood to be in the neighbouring constituency of Bow and Poplar. Their cases will go before the constitutional committee.

Today's decision will be a boost to Mr Shore. If the selection process is not completed before a general election is called, he will almost certainly be imposed by the NEC as the candidate.

The executive will take the latest step in the Frank Field re-selection case today by setting a timetable for the re-run of the earlier battle in which Paul Davies, a trade union official, defeated Mr Field. The date for the new selection conference recommended to the NEC is understood to be June 22. That is likely to infuriate Mr Davies's supporters, who will see the delay as an attempt to help Mr Field.

## Local councils to control minor parking offences

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

A STRING of traffic offences is to be decentralised in a reorganisation of controls over parking in London which will give a new role to local authorities, MPs were told yesterday by Christopher Chope, minister for roads and traffic.

He said during report stage of the Road Traffic bill that the government will bring forward amendments containing details of the scheme when the legislation reaches the House of Lords.

Under the proposals, local authorities will apply to the transport secretary to set up "designated parking areas" in their boroughs where most parking offences that do not involve possible endorsement of licences will be decentralised.

They will include breaches of rules covering waiting, loading, unloading and delivery prohibitions, parking at bus stops, pavement parking and breaches of the commercial vehicle overnight-waiting ban.

Mr Chope said that penalty charges would be enforced by the local authorities which will be given extended powers to

wheelclamp or take away vehicles contravening the new controls. The police will retain overriding powers for use against parked vehicles anywhere in London where security or other police issues are involved.

He said that the costs of enforcement in the new areas would be borne by local authorities which would be able to generate sufficient income from the penalties charged.

Joan Ruddock, a shadow transport minister, expressed Labour's delight at the scheme. Local authorities had such a vested interest in enforcement that they would do the job well, she said.

Mrs Ruddock moved a new clause to provide for random breath testing at roadside checkpoints. She said that most MPs supported the change, but the government had imposed a three-line whip against random testing, despite strong support from Conservative MPs and many requests for a free vote.

Over seven years, surveys had shown 70 per cent public support for the measure, but fewer than 50 per cent of police officers thought that it should be given priority. The clause gave a clear and straightforward procedure for the police to make random tests at checkpoints that would have to be clearly signposted and authorised in writing by a senior police officer. At present, the police had to rely on two different powers and combine them to provide an inadequate type of random testing. Present procedures were cumbersome and inefficient.

## Bill for ex-servicemen

By KERRY GILL

A MOVE to streamline Whitehall's response to the problems of former servicemen was launched in the Commons last night when George Howarth, Labour MP for Knowsley North, gained an unopposed first reading for his Veterans bill, which he said could help servicemen and women returning from the Gulf.

Mr Howarth said that the resettlement of former service personnel, and the care and rehabilitation of those who were disabled, were handled by 16 different departments. His bill would bring them together under a department of veterans' affairs.

He added: "Our support should not be confined to fine words during times of conflict". His bill has won support on both sides of the House, but has virtually no chance of becoming law.

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He added: "Our support should not be confined to fine words during times of conflict". His bill has won support on both sides of the House, but has virtually no chance of becoming law.

## Scots make do without leader

By KERRY GILL

NEIL Kinnock, the Labour leader, will not address the Scottish party conference next month, the first time he has failed to do so since becoming leader. It emerged yesterday. The Conservatives immediately sought to capitalise on his planned absence, calling it "staggering cheek".

At the time of the Aberdeen conference Mr Kinnock will be in Australia to attend a gathering of international socialist leaders. The Labour leadership in Scotland defended Mr Kinnock's decision and said that he had been the first party leader to attend every Scottish conference until now.

Mr Kinnock's failure to attend will be highlighted by John Major's planned visit to Scotland on Friday next week, which will seal much of the limelight from the first day of the conference. Last year, Margaret Thatcher, the former



Kinnock: is to attend Socialist International

prime minister, came to Scotland during the party conference. Her visit, in which she announced a 1,500 jobs package, sidelined Mr Kinnock's speech. Mr Kinnock's absence is likely to upset many delegates who are well aware that the conference is expected to be the last before a general election. They feel that the party will need all the publicity it can get to sustain support as the Gulf war draws to a close.

Murray Elder, secretary of the Scottish Labour party, said: "We are not particularly worried. The Socialist International conference is for socialist leaders throughout the world. We well understand why he wants to be there." Instead, Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, will address the conference.

Michael Hirst, president of the Scottish Conservatives, said that it was an outrageous snub to Mr Kinnock's supporters and Scotland. "He Labour can take Scottish Labour votes and Scottish Labour MPs for granted. What staggering cheek?"

## Apology demanded of Young

An apology from Lord Young of Gifford, the former trade and industry secretary, for misleading Parliament over the final terms of the Rover sale to British Aerospace was demanded in the Lords.

The Lord Lord Lord Hasketh, the industry minister, said that his department would answer the report's allegations within the next few months.

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## Holidays at home

The government has granted £800,000 to the troubled United Kingdom national tourist boards to launch a holiday-at-home campaign, Eric Forth, employment minister, told the Commons in a written reply. The BTA would also receive further £800,000 on top of grant-in-aid agreed for 1991-2 for promotion overseas after the Gulf situation had been settled.

## No lottery

The government has no plans to introduce a national lottery to help to finance the national health service, John Major, economic secretary, said in a written reply. Real resources for the service would rise by 5 per cent in the next financial year.

## Interest rates

A call for lower interest rates was made by Nicholas Winterton, Tory MP for Macclesfield, at question time. He said that present levels were killing the clothing and textile industry and the paper and board industry.

## Belts benefit

Since the introduction of the compulsory wearing of front seat belts in cars in 1983 about 1,500 deaths and 55,000 injuries have been avoided, Christopher Chope, roads and traffic minister, said.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment. Motions on social security benefit increases. Lords (2.30): Debate on local government.

# BBC wins seven news awards

FROM THE ROYAL TELEVISION SOCIETY

BBC national and regional journalism has triumphed at this year's Royal Television Society Awards winning seven prizes. For the first time in a decade Journalist of the Year was awarded twice - this time to the BBC's John Simpson and John Cole. BBC's Regional Journalism took three awards - best Regional News, best Regional Current Affairs and the International News prize - which was won by BBC West in Bristol. BBC-TV's Peter Taylor was successful for the second year running with the Home Current Affairs prize.



JOHN SIMPSON JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

John Simpson, BBC Foreign Affairs Editor, for his reporting from around the world, including despatches from Baghdad.

### HOME NEWS

Mike McKay, BBC North of England Correspondent, for his report on the ending of the Strangeways prison siege.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BBC West in Bristol for exclusive coverage of the plight of handicapped children in Romania.



JOHN COLE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

John Cole, BBC Political Editor, for his distinguished coverage of Margaret Thatcher's resignation and the race for the Tory leadership.

### HOME CURRENT AFFAIRS

Peter Taylor, for the second year running, this time for a documentary special on the Maze prison in Northern Ireland.

### REGIONAL NEWS

BBC Northern Ireland for an edition of Inside Ulster which reported on two bomb attacks on security checkpoints outside Londonderry and Newry.

### REGIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

BBC South West in Plymouth for their investigation - entitled *For Those in Peril* - into a drowning off a crowded North Devon Beach.



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Albania  
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dialogue

From RICHARD BA  
IN BRUNA

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# Women party chiefs contest free poll in Bangladesh

From Christopher Thomas in Rangpur

BANGLADESH will hold its first genuinely free national elections in 20 years as an independent country today, pitching the daughter and the widow of assassinated dictators against each other.

The army is conspicuously keeping out of the battle. Since the interim civilian government installed in December is politically neutral, the poll will be free of the mass rigging that has discredited past elections. The promise of democracy has created unusual grassroots enthusiasm for the contest, even if some of the campaign crowds are lured more by free cigarettes than by politics. More than 2,700 candidates from 120 parties are fighting for 300 parliamentary seats. There has been remarkably little violence.

Some opinion polls give a marginal lead to the eight-party alliance headed by Sheikh Hasina Wazed of the Awami League. Her main challenger is Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which heads a seven-party grouping. Sheikh Hasina is the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, founder of the nation, who was killed in 1975. Begum Khaleda is the widow of General Zia-ur Rahman, the former strongman shot dead in 1980. Thousands of posters

of both men compete for wall space in Dhaka.

The shadow of another strongman also hangs over the election: that of Hussain Ershad, whose nine-year rule ended in early December when army colleagues pushed him from power. Future military intervention cannot be ruled out if the democratic experiment turns to chaos, but for now the armed forces seem content to stand aside after running the country directly or indirectly for the past 15 years.

Mr Ershad is contesting five constituencies in his home district of Rangpur in northern Bangladesh, and he stands a good chance of winning in three of them. Opposition parties have formed alliances to try to keep him out. His Jatiya party, which is fielding 260 candidates, has been refused air time on state-run television and radio. The former ruler is under house arrest in the Dhaka suburb of Gulshan, awaiting trial for alleged corruption, abuse of power and illegal possession of arms. Hearings are due to start soon after the election.

Rangpur is unique. It has street lighting and paved roads, a sports stadium and a zoo — and it is about the only place in Bangladesh where anybody would raise a cheer for Mr Ershad. It is his home town, and is expected to elect him as an MP. He lavished money on it while in power, pulling it out of the worst of its squalor and ensuring its loyalty.

Hardly a wall or street lamp in Rangpur is free of Mr Ershad's picture. In neighbouring villages, pro-Ershad posters cover the walls of mud huts and the sides of cycle rickshaws. Villagers say Mr Ershad brought them electricity, schools, clinics and roads. The Commonwealth has sent 12 eminent observers to monitor the election.



Marching orders: soldiers being deployed in Dhaka yesterday to keep law and order during the Bangladeshi parliamentary elections today. Previous polls have been marred by violence and ballot-rigging

## Thai king approves military takeover

From James Pringle in Bangkok

MILITARY leaders in Thailand toasted King Bhumibol in champagne yesterday as a royal order legitimised the bloodless weekend coup that overthrew the government of Chatchai Choonhavan, the prime minister.

Western diplomats said any resistance to the takeover, which ended three years of democracy, would disappear now that it had the royal seal

of approval. The events of the past few days have brought the role of King Bhumibol again into focus. Although Thailand's monarchy has been a constitutional one since a coup in 1932, King Bhumibol is the symbol of the nation and a rallying point for Thais. While he has no direct say in government, he has a role above politics. Last year, he called in Mr Chatchai and

bickering military opponents, urging them to stop their quarrelling. Yesterday's royal command said the deposed government "had failed to gain the people's confidence and had also failed to maintain peace and order". The command asked Thais to remain calm and said civil servants should obey the orders of the military chiefs. The royal statement also

confirmed that General Sonthorn Kongsompong, the armed forces supreme commander, would become the head of the National Peace-keeping Council, as the military junta calls itself. A caretaker government comprising civilian and military figures is expected to take over the running of the country within a week, military sources said.

## North Koreans put army on alert

By Our Foreign Staff

THE supreme commander of the North Korean People's Army ordered all military units to take up "combat mobilisation" positions yesterday, the official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, said.

The agency quoted a communiqué of the supreme command of the army as saying: "This is a legitimate self-defensive step to cope with the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean puppets. The United States and the South Korean authorities must stop at once the aggressive 'Team Spirit 91' joint military exercises clearly mindful that there is a limit to our patient efforts."

Washington reacted cautiously yesterday. "We are certainly checking the reports," an American official said. "We don't know if this call is more extreme than those they have made before."

South and North Korea, which are still technically at war since the 1950-3 Korean conflict, have increased contacts in recent months. Their prime ministers have met in each other's capitals to discuss steps to ease tension.

But the North cancelled a fourth-round prime ministers' meeting, which was scheduled to open on Monday in Pyongyang, saying that the South had wrecked the atmosphere by refusing to call off the annual South Korean-American military exercises currently in progress. According to the communiqué, the officers and men of the North's army and security forces have been ordered to be ready to go into emergency action at any moment, the news agency reported.

## Chinese complete execution of rebels

China has finished executing those arrested in the June 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, Qian Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister, said in Spain yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). "Those who should be freed have been freed, and those who should have been shot have been shot," he said.

Reports from Hong Kong say three Hong Kong men have been put on trial in China accused of helping pro-democracy activists to flee after the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

● CANBERRA: The Australian government, citing an improvement in human rights in China, said that it would drop sanctions imposed after the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement. (AP)

## Deadly mudslide

Port Moresby — At least 200 people died and an unknown number were buried after a mudslide in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, Rabble Namaliu, the prime minister, said. The mudslide, caused by torrential rains, wiped out villages and roads about 185 miles northwest of the capital. Searchers and military officers were making their way to the region to mount a relief operation last night. (AP)

## Minister retires

Islamabad — Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, aged 69, the veteran Pakistani foreign minister, is stepping down for personal reasons, Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, said. He had urged him to stay, but members of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance have criticised the minister's pro-American policy. (Reuters)

## Philippines aid

Hong Kong — An international conference organized by the World Bank pledged \$3.3 billion (£1.72 billion) in financial aid to the Philippines. Jesus Estanislao, the Philippine finance secretary, said he was surprised by the generosity of the 22 donor countries and financial institutions at the meeting. (AP)



Sheikh Hasina: polls put her marginally ahead

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### OPSEC DESIGN & ASSEMBLY SERVICES LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & TROTTER, 22nd Floor, Leadenhall Building, London EC3A 3BP, on Tuesday, 27th March 1991, at 12.00 noon for the purpose of considering the proposed voluntary arrangement of the company.

A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the company can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Trotter, 22nd Floor, Leadenhall Building, London EC3A 3BP, on any business day between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the 27th day of March 1991.

Dated the 19th day of February 1991

A J LOWE Director

#### SULLIVAN BRITT TEXTILES

REGISTERED NO 1599004

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & TROTTER, 22nd Floor, Leadenhall Building, London EC3A 3BP, on Tuesday, 27th March 1991, at 12.00 noon for the purpose of considering the proposed voluntary arrangement of the company.

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A J LOWE Director

#### THE GRACECHURCH INSURANCE

ON MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.180a of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Liquidator of The Gracechurch Insurance Company, Limited, is intended to make the only distribution to creditors.

Creditors are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, The Gracechurch Insurance Company, Limited, 22nd Floor, Leadenhall Building, London EC3A 3BP, on or before 22 March 1991, the last date for the receipt of claims.

Thereafter the distribution will be made to the creditors who have proved their claims by the 22nd day of March 1991.

P R SHUTE Liquidator

#### ACORN HARDWOODS PLC

IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP

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Dated the 19th day of February 1991

A J LOWE Director

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Dated the 19th day of February 1991

A J LOWE Director

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# The free-for-all that wasn't

The TV listings duopoly has ended but only four magazines are battling for the readers. Robin Hunt compares them

This week sees the early results of the freedom established by last year's Broadcasting Act to publish full details of television programmes one week in advance. The two former monopolies, *Radio Times* and *TVTimes*, are lined up to go head-to-head with two newcomers, *What's on TV* and *TVPlus*, all against a mass consumption. Even the least ambitious in sales terms, *What's on TV*, guarantees launch advertisers a sale of 700,000 copies.

The opening up of the market brought hopeful talk of more varied magazine output. Germany was cited: there would be many new listings titles, some for the mass market, others targeted at niche markets.

There would, for example, be a magazine for Channel 4/BBC2 viewers, with long articles about opera or Polish war films.

There would be profits for some, was the confident prediction. Two years on, this is clearly not so. One of the prime movers of listings deregulation, Tony Elliott, the publisher of *Time Out*, who once talked ambitiously of launching a television magazine, has narrowed his sights, and is merely expanding the television section within *Time Out*. The German publisher Bauer, which produces *Bella*, the weekly women's magazine, in Britain, spent two years producing listings dummies in preparation for the

*Wogan in TVTimes, Aspel in Radio Times. It's very cosy*

Under the editorship of Nicholas Brett, *RT* has substantially changed its appearance, introducing full colour throughout, shorter features and much "busier" design. Its language has changed, too: rogues have become "lovable", Hollywood "the place where stars are born and dreams come true".

Lynne Truss, the television columnist of *The Times*, mourns the evolution of *Radio Times*: "When I worked there it advertised itself on the quality of its writers," she says. "It was full of well written articles. Now it is obviously very jazzy, full of competitions and horoscopes. And I'm suspicious of all this cross dressing. Terry Wogan in *TVTimes*, Michael Aspel in *Radio Times*. It's very cosy."

Despite its superficial dressing of standards, *Radio Times* still carries a commitment to serious, well-written articles which suggest the magazine is, at core, still aimed at a literate, discerning audience.

The battle will be won or lost on the listings pages. What is the most user-friendly way to present four terrestrial television networks, 11 satellite channels and five BBC Radio networks?

*Radio Times* separates the daily programme listing for



Editors: *Radio Times*'s Nicholas Brett and *TVTimes*'s Bridget Rowe are defending weekly sales of almost three million



satellite and radio from the information on terrestrial television, putting the former in arid sections at the back of the magazine. *RT*'s one innovation is a bar chart "evening at a glance" which allows a quick comparison of programme

start times. *TVTimes* uses the same format for each day, with a strip of photographs across the top of each spread. The pages are cleaner and have satellite and radio listings following the terrestrial listings each day.

people to switch off." He claims *Jazz FM* will now have more of a "popular jazz identity". Out goes soul (early Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles are still acceptable), and in comes more "useful" jazz.

But will the new sound of *Jazz FM* be so bland that it is no longer recognisable as jazz in any real sense of the term? "I would say that Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson and Woody Herman are brilliant music," Mr Laycock says, "and not middle-of-the-road."

STEVE CLARKE

## Relaunching all that jazz

Declining audience figures have prompted a radio station shake-up

redundant, and a number of presenters are being axed under the regime of Malcolm Laycock. *Jazz FM*'s new programme controller.

Part of the station's problem is that it has been squeezed by two of London's other new specialist music stations - *Kiss*, which plays dance music, and *Melody*, Lord Hanson's

easy-listening station, each with a little more than a million listeners. Younger listeners have defected to *Kiss*, while *Melody* has gained some of *Jazz FM*'s audience who wanted to hear middle-of-the-road music.

Mr Laycock aims to increase *Jazz FM*'s present audience by 250,000 within 12 months by creating a more

"coherent service". Weekday evening specialist shows are being dropped, and most programmes will now last four hours instead of three.

"We have to create a house style. Listeners must be able to recognise the station when they're tuning in," he says. "In the past *Jazz FM* has played too many records that caused

people to switch off." He claims *Jazz FM* will now have more of a "popular jazz identity". Out goes soul (early Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles are still acceptable), and in comes more "useful" jazz.

But will the new sound of *Jazz FM* be so bland that it is no longer recognisable as jazz in any real sense of the term? "I would say that Ella Fitzgerald, Oscar Peterson and Woody Herman are brilliant music," Mr Laycock says, "and not middle-of-the-road."

STEVE CLARKE

### MEDIA WATCH

## In the picture

LIKE viewers in most European capitals, Muscovites have been tuning to the American Cable News Network (CNN) for Gulf war news. Moscow residents recently discovered they could pick up the Atlanta-based 24-hour news channel, currently being tested in the capital, just by finding the right frequency. But not for long. Soon they will have to pay for the service. "After we start selling it, the signal will be scrambled and you will have to pay for it," said Stuart Loory, the CNN vice-president, on a visit to Moscow. CNN signed a contract with the Soviet Union in 1989.

### BBC 'suicide'

THIRTY-FOUR television script-writers, including Fay Weldon, Alan Plater and Dennis Potter, have launched a campaign against the BBC's decision to close its television script unit. For decades the unit has read unsolicited material, and advised and promoted beginners. "To destroy one of the major means of detecting and encouraging new writers is suicide," the writers said in a joint statement. The BBC, which will save £150,000 from the closure, says it commissions 99.9 per cent of its TV drama, serial and comedy output anyway. Responsibility for unsolicited material will be passed to script editors and producers.

### Press falls from favour

THE most talked about Gulf war sketch on America's satirical *Saturday Night Live* show was at the expense of the reporters assigned to cover the Pentagon's daily briefings. One after another, the journalists asked questions whose answers, if given, would have delighted Iraqi officials. The skit illustrated one certain casualty of the war against Iraq: a plunge in public esteem for the media. While news organisations have clamoured for freer access to military information, the American public has supported the Pentagon's defence that certain facts will aid and abet the enemy. A recent survey for the *Times Mirror* news group found that six out of ten Americans thought the Pentagon's censorship should be tighter.

### Freedom fight

MEANWHILE, 13 writers and publications in the United States have filed a lawsuit against the Pentagon over its military censorship rules, alleging they constitute a "prior restraint" unlawful under the American constitution, which guarantees a free press. None of the leading newspapers or television networks is supporting the case, to be heard by the US Federal Court on March 7. However, Walter Cronkite, the veteran television anchorman, rebuked the censorship in an essay in *Newsweek*. Mr Cronkite, who is not backing the case, wrote: "With an arrogance foreign to the democratic system, the US military in Saudi Arabia is trampling on the American people's right to know. It is doing a disservice not only to the home front but to history and to its own best interests."



Walter Cronkite

### Shopping for opinions

SHOPPERS at the new Meadowhall centre in Sheffield are being asked to preview new programmes from Yorkshire Television. A giant "Vidivall" has been set up by the ITV company, which is asking viewers to fill out questionnaires to help it gauge audience reaction. Those watching on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays will also be asked what time of day they think the programmes should be broadcast.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

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# The families that fight together

As brothers, husbands and wives choose to serve alongside each other in the forces, some of their families are trying to keep them apart. Susan Ellicott reports

Jim Sullivan was a toddler with a tuft of yellow hair when his father and four uncles, all sailors on the USS Juneau, died together in the second world war. The cruiser sank after being hit by a Japanese torpedo in the south Pacific. Only ten of the 700-strong crew survived.

Mr Sullivan, who was not then two years old, remembers nothing about the attack at Guadalcanal in November 1942, except what newspaper clippings and his relatives told him later. Of the 150 sailors who survived the blast, half perished while trying to stay afloat in a thick oil slick. Others were eaten by sharks.

Mr Sullivan's mother, who was aged only 19 when Al, her 20-year-old husband, died, rarely talked about the incident to her only child. The family's loss is immortalised in a black and white film entitled *The Sullivans*. Released in 1944 as a tribute to the five young men, it has become a classic.

For the Irish Catholic family in Waterloo, Iowa, the toll was terrible. George, aged 29, Francis, aged 26, Joseph, aged 23, Madison, aged 22, and Albert, the father of baby Jim. So adamant were the five about serving on the same ship that the navy had agreed to waive a guideline discouraging the service of siblings together.

Now, as the greatest number of American troops sent overseas since Vietnam sees service in the Middle East, Mr Sullivan hopes to spare others the trauma suffered by his family. Toby Roth, a Republican politician from Wisconsin, flew him to Washington last week to bolster the chances of a bill before Congress that would exempt family members from service in the same combat zone or unit. Although inspired by the Gulf war, the bill sets out to reform the call-up policy in the longer term, and is expected to pass through the labyrinthine legislative process, even if Iraq and the allies make peace.

Like many Americans, Mr Sullivan was surprised recently to learn that the so-called Sullivan Act, introduced after a national outcry over the brothers' deaths, exists only as a directive by the Pentagon that immediate relatives should be protected from having to serve in the same unit or on the same ship in times of war. The act was rejected by Congress after the second world war, and never became law.

In Britain, the armed services allow family members in the military to decide for themselves if they want to serve together. A family tradition has grown up in many regiments. Brothers might choose to serve together in their father's old regiment but, according to the defence ministry, if one wanted a transfer, his request would be allowed.

Gordon and Helen Gourdie, who have three sons — James, aged 17, Alex, aged 19 and Gordon, aged 21 — serving in B company of the Royal Scots, do not believe that their sons should serve in the same company. "It is all right serving in the same regiment, but in a war they should be separated by company," Mr Gourdie says. "My sons wrote asking for them to be split up, but I feel they should at least be in different companies and kept as far apart as possible."

The family has the support of Sir David Steel, the former Liberal leader, and local churchmen. Earlier this week, Mr Gourdie said he had little idea where his sons were, only that they were in Iraq.

Mr Sullivan, a youthful-looking 50 who works for the local traffic board, is not seeking publicity. He is happy to help Mr Roth, but seems uneasy being the centre of attention. Except for a few years in Texas, he has lived an unassuming life within a few miles of his home town and its several memorials to his brothers, including a park and a new convention centre.

As the child of a remarkably patriotic family, his father's death has not made him anti-war. He supports President Bush's Gulf policy, and, fresh from school, joined the navy himself for several years. (His own teenage son, however, wants to be an investment banker.) He often wonders what life would have been like with a father, and thinks it is important to protect the kin left behind.

"I can understand why brothers would want to be together," he says. "But it is something that should be talked over with your mother and father." He points to a snapshot of his grandparents, with whom he and his mother lived until she married again, when he was aged seven. They were religious folk, who took the deaths of their sons with stoicism, without a pause for grief. They immediately threw their energy into war bond rallies, while

where his sons were, only that they were in Iraq. Mr Sullivan, a youthful-looking 50 who works for the local traffic board, is not seeking publicity. He is happy to help Mr Roth, but seems uneasy being the centre of attention. Except for a few years in Texas, he has lived an unassuming life within a few miles of his home town and its several memorials to his brothers, including a park and a new convention centre.



Lest we forget: Jim Sullivan holds a photograph of his father and four uncles, all killed at the same time

Genevieve, their only daughter, joined the navy for the rest of the war. Nevertheless, Mr Sullivan recalls that his grandparents "seemed to lose that spark" after the disaster.

Many military families in the United States support the idea of tighter restrictions on the deployment of family members to war zones. The Pentagon says it does not know how many families have at least two siblings in the Middle East. Supporters of the law say that the restructuring of the US armed services during the Eighties to include more civilians in full-scale action, including military reserves and the National Guard, has increased the need for a law to protect families. Fathers and sons or husbands and wives have found themselves on active duty in Operation Desert Storm.

Pearl Jurnett, of Tennessee, has five sons in the Gulf — one in the navy and four in the army. The defence department has assured her that no two are together, but she

worries about them anyway as she takes care of an 18-month-old grandson. Two of Barb and Ron Bendt's four children are at the front: Eugene, aged 20, is in the 82nd Airborne Division, while Anthony, two years younger, is in a tank unit.

Their father's voice trembles when he describes receiving what one son told him three weeks ago would be his last call home before he moved to the combat zone. Mr Bendt, a Vietnam veteran, told a news conference outside the Capitol building called to launch the bill in Washington: "We're not asking that the people not serve, we're just asking that one of them not be at the front."

At least one onlooker at a Washington news conference was unimpressed by the words of Mr Bendt and efforts of Mr Sullivan. "Pleeeeee," he drawled. "This is an all-volunteer force. It's not as if we have the draft." Others have used a similar argument to knock down

recent legislative proposals that the Pentagon should exempt one parent from duty in a combat zone if a husband and wife are both called up. Women represent about 11 per cent of the armed services in America (compared with 5 per cent in Britain) and their role in the war against Iraq has sparked a national debate about the defence department's policies on deploying parents and the mothers of newborn babies.

The Pentagon has estimated that the Gulf war had left children from about 17,500 families temporarily without either one or both parents. The US forces include about 1,200 military couples and more than 16,000 single parents, mostly unmarried or divorced men.

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, has opposed the idea of keeping one parent back except in hardship cases. "If you have a man and woman both serving, who meet in the service, marry, and have a family," he recently asked a television interviewer, "why should one of them be kicked out?"

## Kingsley and the men

Kingsley Amis's memoirs are full of catty gossip about the famous — but then men always were the best bitches

Unless you plan to spend the next week in a mediaproof bunker, you are going to encounter the *Memoirs* of Kingsley Amis. Already there is gossip about who is offended, who will not go to the launch party and so forth; and from the book itself, nuggets are being unearthed a few at a time.

Mr Amis has had famous acquaintances, without admiring many of them. Malcolm Muggeridge, we learnt at the weekend, was lazy and drunken and could not even organise an orgy properly. Roald Dahl — so conveniently recently dead — is described as the kind of rotter who arrived at parties by helicopter and talked about how much money you can make out of writing for "the little bastards". John Braine was an embarrassing bore who got

male gossip columnists with names to make. A.E. Housman, we are told, kept a notebook in which he jotted down hurtful and disparaging phrases as they occurred to him, in order to apply them later when suitable enemies presented themselves.

Evelyn Waugh was a master of bitchery, and illustrates perfectly the male ability not to put the brakes on at the boundaries of taste. Women are fatally soft, and generally retract their claws when tragedy or illness intervenes. But when Randolph Churchill underwent a major lung operation and the bulletin said it was not a malignant growth, Waugh felt able to remark that "it was a typical triumph of only part of Randolph that was not malignant and remove it". Now his son, Aubrey



Kingsley Amis

Waugh, the Miss Piggy of the polished phrase, lashes out weekly in print at targets from President Bush to Peter Bottomley.

In politics, men who seem bluff, plain-spoken types often come up with attacks so personally slanted that they fairly take your breath away.

Remember Ivor Bunter-Thomas's comment that "if Harold Wilson ever went to school without any boots, it was because he was too big for them?"

Combined with such wit, bitchery can be bracing. But something odd is happening: the newest wave of male cattiness — the reporting of inconsequential private conversations and the random

knifing of the recently dead — is not funny. It is like the Cheshire cat in reverse: the smile fades and only the unsheathed claws remain. Modern political diaries snarl rather than sparkle and journalists do no better. Nicholas Garland recently chronicled the birth of the *Independent* through a series of anxious, petulant, pointless conversations between chaps who didn't much trust each other. Sir John Junor gave us a series of unrevealing anecdotes with an overall tone of grumpy disapproval. Now Kingsley Amis joins the chorus of unlovable old tomcats. It is getting too like the mutterings across the day-room in an upmarket geriatric home: if things don't improve, perhaps women must take over the job after all.

LIBBY PURVES

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## & BRIEFLY

### Good sports

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### Global view

AS ECOLOGISTS debate the effects of the burning oilfields in Kuwait, the Natural History Museum in London prepares to open what it claims will be the first permanent exhibition on global ecology anywhere in the world. The exhibition, appropriately housed in a giant "greenhouse", opens on Thursday, March 7, and will make visitors feel they are in a moonlit rain forest. The "largest video wall in the world", a quadrascopie, will use mirrors to create a globe more than 20 yards in diameter in order to trace the water cycle from ocean to mountain top and back. You can "shrink" into

the heart of a leaf and tour its photosynthesis plant, or watch a volcano erupt and plants and animals begin to recolonise the scorched earth. The exhibition, sponsored by British Petroleum, is the first to come out of the museum's Development Trust Appeal.

### Winning ways

BLOOMING Marvellous, the maternity and children's wear catalogue company, is inviting customers to come up with slogans to be shown on T-shirts in next year's catalogue. There are two prizes of a £50 voucher, one for the best maternity slogan, the other for the best children's slogan. Some of the profits from the sales of the T-shirts will be donated to the Friends of the Earth and Elefriends charities. Entries to: Slogan Competition, Blooming Marvellous, PO Box 12F, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2LS. The catalogue, with its new Basics range for mothers and babies at less than £20, can be obtained from the above address or by telephoning 081-391 4822.

### Mothering cup

WHITTARD of Chelsea, a specialist in teas, coffees and chocolates, also does a brisk Mother's Day mail order business in its exquisite rose and violet creams — made with real rose and violet petals, packed in wooden gift boxes for £4.95 per 200g. A special China tea has been blended with fragrant rose petals for mothers who prefer a less fattening tribute (£4.80 per pound or £5.95 ribbon-bound with a special mug). For a complimentary catalogue contact Whittard of Chelsea, 73 Northcote Road, London SW11 6PJ (071-924 1888).

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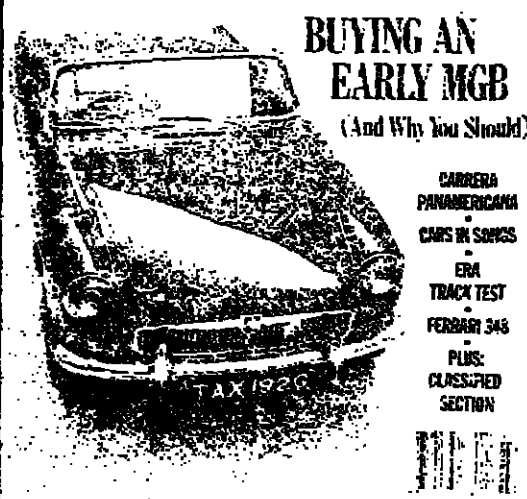
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## THEATRE

## When philanthropy turns nasty

*Timon of Athens*, arguably Shakespeare's least-known play, has been taken up by Trevor Nunn who promises to clarify its obscurities. Heather Neill reports

Rarely performed, virtually unknown to audiences and probably unfamiliar, *Timon of Athens* is a comedy-drama. It presents the Shakespearean director with both a sense of liberation and a challenge. Trevor Nunn is relishing both. His version — for there are textual changes — will be presented at the Young Vic from tomorrow, with David Suchet in the title role.

From his office in central London, Nunn can just see the Palace Theatre, where his production of *Les Misérables* is still packing them in. After that vast public success, a less enquiring mind might have been tempted to take the easy road through theatrical life, but Nunn arrives after a day rehearsing *Timon* positively glowing with the stimulus of working on the text: "There is real joy in seeing how things relate and inter-relate." Remembering his old mentor at Cambridge, F.R. Leavis, still an influence on his approach to text, Nunn smiles: "Frank Leavis was less than impressed by theatrical productions, but perhaps he's still floating in the ether, watching shows."

He would surely, though, have approved of Nunn's rehearsal method. He begins by presenting a well-documented case, eliciting a "Yes, but..." from the cast which, if all is well, leads to further, fruitful analysis. His productions are famous for their social and psychological detail and this, it seems, will be no exception, despite the difficulties.

*Timon* has some of the qualities of a tragic hero: a philanthropist who is so disillusioned by the lack of generosity among his beneficiaries when he is himself bankrupted that he becomes a misanthrope to an extreme degree and dies alone in self-exile. There are echoes (or pre-figurings) of *King Lear*, but without the great soliloquies and with no satisfactory climax, for *Timon* dies off-stage.

At least, that is an outline of the plot in its pre-Nunn state. He is cagey about what exactly has been done to the text, but the ending is "more understandable" now. He has also developed the sub-plot in which Alcibiades, a soldier who has served Athens well, is banished and seeks revenge. This change will, Nunn hopes, throw light on the main narrative and contribute to the tragic inevitability of the ending.

Nunn has written connecting lines where necessary, something he sees as traditional and not just to the Royal Shakespeare Company. The playwright Shadwell tinkered with *Timon* in the 1670s. Dryden rewrote *Antony and Cleopatra*, and Nahum Tate gave *King Lear* a happy ending in the 18th century. The RSC's *Wars of the Roses*, a version of the Histories containing lines by Peter Hall and John Barton, began the modern trend in the Sixties and Barton has subsequently refashioned *Timon* too.

Nunn's work on the play has been, he says, "mainly an editing job, a clarifying job. There is no attempt to deliver the new bits in red, the



Trevor Nunn: "I hope that people who have seen *Timon* before will feel they are watching the same play, but it's clearer"

old in black. I hope that people who have seen *Timon* before will feel they are watching the same play, but it's clearer."

*Timon* must not be dismissed by the audience as a glib fool, taken in too easily by flatterers. He is a true philanthropist by philosophical choice. "It is fundamental to his nature. What happens hurts to the point where that belief must go, and what replaces it is the opposite. What Shakespeare is after, as always, is a middle way." It is Apemantus (played by Barry Foster), a Cynic philosopher — as honest as *Lear's Fool*, as sour as Jacques — who reveals the crux of the play in a bitter word-duel with *Timon*: "The middle of humanity thou never knewest, but the extremity of both ends."

Unusually for Nunn, the production is in modern dress. He is wary of the kind of transposition that leads the audience to ask — why nobody made one serving phonecall. He sees no such problems with *Timon*. "It is immensely apposite to our estate because we are accustomed to government saying that the only valuation that counts is financial." He cites the health service and the state of the arts. In the play, artists come to *Timon* all too willing to please and, of course, subject to the vicissitudes of his own financial welfare — a neat metaphor, perhaps, for the dangers of sponsorship.

Nunn has always been a fan of the Young Vic and was active in last year's successful Save the Young Vic Campaign when it all but

closed for good. His stunning Stratford productions of *Macbeth* and *Othello* found a London venue here. He admires its "three sidedness, Elizabethan-ness, intimacy and public-ness." It is not, however, an easy theatre — small and poor — in which to show wealth and extravagance, and it is here that

*'This play is apposite because we are accustomed to the government saying the only valuation that counts is financial'*

real-life philanthropists have come to the rescue. The costumes are being provided by the couturier Nicole Farhi, Eddie Kukulundis has proved himself "deep-down generous" and Nunn hints that he is forking out something himself, too.

The *Timon* company appears to be something of a reunion of old friends and colleagues. Barry Foster is an actor Nunn has been planning to work with for 20 years. He came in on the first day, hitting the right ironic note with, "well, that didn't take long, did it?" John Gunter, the designer, Adriane Neofitou,

costume designer, and others are tried and tested. David Suchet has worked with Nunn only once (on *Once in a Lifetime*) and not in Shakespeare, but their rapport seemed genuine.

Suchet is a perfectionist, as dapper, charming and genteel as his television Hercule Poirot. He charmed amiably during a break in rehearsals, while having his portrait painted for a production prop. He has found psychological depth in *Timon*: "Shakespeare wrote pure Renaissance man, but a man not capable of giving up himself. He is underwritten we know nothing of his circumstances and there is no mention of parents, wife or job, but he needs friendship desperately."

Suchet has researched the part painstakingly, reading every scrap he can find and discussing the nature of misanthropy with a psychoanalyst. But it is no picnic presenting the extremes of human nature in quick succession: "You have to buy two pounds of courage and eat the bag before going on." Less extravagantly, he prepares himself when playing Shakespeare by reading Elizabethan language for several hours before each performance, to prevent — he taps his head — "the gearbox getting oily."

Suchet thinks this is a wonderful opportunity for the audience "to see Shakespeare unfolding before your eyes". He adds: "I rather wish I was seeing it myself."

● *Timon of Athens* previews tomorrow at the Young Vic, The Cut, London SE1 (071-928 6363) and opens on March 6, until April 26.

## BRIEFING

## Planning for Purcell

THIS year the world may be obsessed with Mozart. But some far-sighted luminaries are looking towards 1995: the tercentenary of the death of Britain's greatest baroque composer, Henry Purcell. On Monday, Thames Television, Channel 4 and the Purcell Society hosted a gathering in King's College, London, to inaugurate planning of the anniversary celebrations.

Sir Michael Tippett reminisced about his Purcell revivals at Morley College, Thames Television, which plans extensive broadcasts, wittily claimed Purcell as an exclusive Thames artist on the grounds that he never left Westminster. But the arts minister, Tim Renton, declared Purcell to be a national treasure, and sanctioned the setting up of a Purcell Office (with Arts Council money) as a clearing house for 1995 plans. A working party to coordinate the celebrations was also established, chaired by the former Cabinet Secretary, Lord Armstrong — who revealed that he once conducted *Dido and Aeneas*.

## Lost property

NOVELS that are quintessentially New York in location and mood are rarely Anglicised for the screen. But that is what has happened to the American writer David Leavitt's book *The Last Language of Cranes*. The story of a homosexual whose father turns out also to be gay has been shifted from Manhattan to London in Sean Mathias's screenplay, which the BBC starts filming in June. Leavitt's ties with Britain do not end there. English director John Schlesinger has commissioned the 29-year-old author to write his first screenplay.

## New blood

DRACULA, Bram Stoker's toothsome creation, is getting a modern facelift this month, when a new score for the silent classic, *Nosferatu*, is premiered at the Riverside Studios in west London. The music, written by the London composer John Sweeney for a five-piece ensemble, will emphasise the dichotomies of the traditional horror film — poetry and fright — "Music greatly influences

how people react to a film," Sweeney explains, "and Dracula has too many preconceptions. The new score highlights the dark world of German romanticism, as well as the horror." The score — one of 20 such pieces composed by Sweeney for cinema — will be performed live as accompaniment to the film on Sunday.

## Set fair

THE Duchess of York is to open Art London '91, the Sixth International Contemporary Art Fair to be held at Olympia on April 18-21. The royal presence is a coup for the organisers, Interbuild Exhibitions, who last year had to make do with the less glamorous Richard Luce, then the arts minister.

## Another place

BRITISH playwright Ronald Harwood will direct Albert Finney in the American premiere of *Another Time*, which has been chosen to open the new home of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. Set in 1950s Cape Town, *Another Time* is about a young pianist who finds he cannot escape the politics of his homeland. Finney will recreate his West End role for the Chicago production, which will open on April 14, in the company's new 500-seat theatre.



Finney in Chicago

## Last chance

CARMEI, the pop-jazz combo led by sultry Carmel McCourt, finishes its "Month of Sundays" residency at Ronnie Scott's (071-439 0747) on Sunday. A perennial attraction on the club circuit, the group can be found showcasing new material and a fair smattering of old favourites in an environment well-suited to its smoky, sophisticated style.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

## Snappy dressers captured by master snappers

Michael Young on the fragile art of fashion photography, the focus of two new London exhibitions

Fashion photography is a dubious art. In the areas of reportage, portraiture and documentary, photography is expected to be truthful. By contrast, fashion photography is a masquerade, a sleight of hand by masters of lighting, styling, and the elegant pose. The concepts of the fashion editors, the whims of the art directors are moulded into reality by master craftsmen. But this is reality of the most fragile sort, a carefully constructed mirage that will disappear if examined too closely.

Fashion photography had no real sense of identity before the 1930s. It was an infant of the many pictorial magazines that proliferated in Europe and America. The early work was mannered and romantic, concerned mainly with what society was wearing and doing.

But after the second world war the American photographers Richard Avedon and Irving Penn created a new, freer style. Their models seemed to possess a life of their own; the clothes they wore appeared of secondary importance to the art of creating a photograph.

The Fifties saw fashion photography take to the streets. Avedon and Penn were there, of course, but there were, of course, other photographers such as William Klein, Frank Horvat and Bruce Davidson — who, until

then had been mainly concerned with photo-journalism — found themselves working for fashion magazines. The genre was liberated, and something more than simple elegance was being expressed.

Yet the real pioneers were always Avedon and Penn, both of whom could switch their styles from studio to streets with remarkable ease. They were similar but individual, seeking to express a reality which lay beneath the surface glitter.

In Britain, David Bailey stamped his own mark on the Sixties. His work, drawing heavily on the Avedon/Penn mould, cracked with emotion: the personalities of his principal models, Jean Shrimpton and Twiggy, leapt from the stark black and white of his pictures.

Bailey's portraits of fashionable society — Mick Jagger fringed in his halo of fur, for instance — also astonished with their confrontational directness. Fashion photography, it seemed, had become the agent that created and then sustained a Zeitgeist.

Herein surely lies the real strength of fashion photography. The best — and there are many fine photographs in this Victoria and Albert Museum exhibition — transcend the sophisms of so much



Fashionable personalities: Twiggy by Ronald Traeger

current fashion photography. The majority of pictures are black and white, needing no explosion of colour to arrest our attention. This photography purports to be nothing other than what it is: simple yet full of artifice and affection, soaked with conceits and yet sometimes gloriously decadent and hedonistic. It is about nothing important, and yet occasionally demands to be taken seriously.

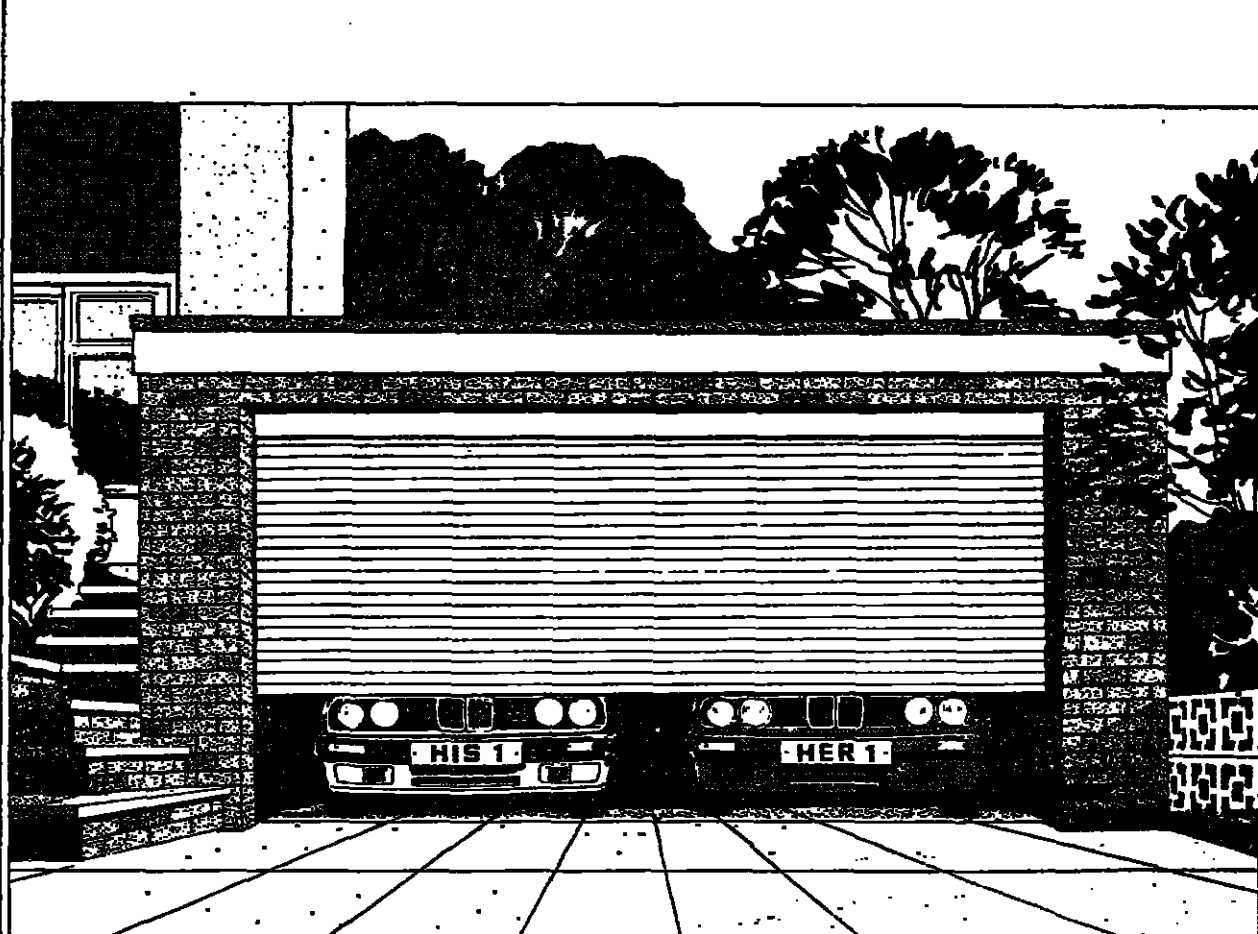
Of course, there is a danger that fashion photography's aspirations — some might say pretensions — will eventually destroy its sense of identity. Even so, the images of Avedon, Penn and Bailey haunt us. Their best work is beyond the range of the V&A

exhibition, although one can gain a greater perspective of Avedon's at his Hamilton Gallery show, where his unfailingly sharp eye is seen in action from 1948 to the present day.

Here it is obvious that his inherent sense of design needs few, if any, extraneous props to create eloquent black and white photographs, full of light and space. Just occasionally he will resort to unusual locations or place his models in the street where they are stared at by passers-by, but in the main his most successful pictures by far are those where simplicity is the key element.

Sadly there are few Avedon non-fashion portraits in this show — an exception is his fine almost iconic photograph of the British painter, Francis Bacon. As a result, the observer is left with the curious feeling of having undertaken a journey that arrives back at its starting-point.

● Appearance: Fashion Photography since 1945 Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Rd, London SW7, until April 28. Richard Avedon Hamilton Gallery, 13 Carlos Place, London W1, until April 4.



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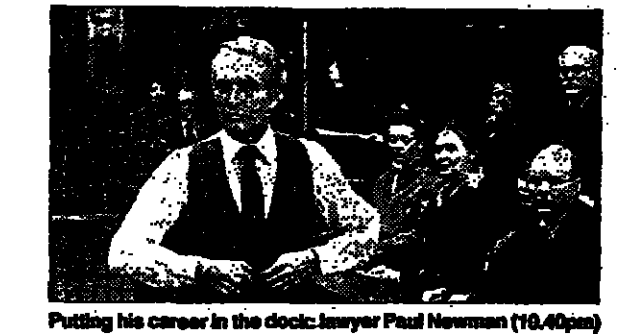






## BBC 1

8.00 **Celebs**  
8.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer  
9.15 **Kitty**. Robert Kelly-Silk chairs a studio discussion on the possibilities of a new regional news and weather  
10.00 **News 10.05 Playdays** (10.30) Dish of the Day. Cooking ideas from Rosemary Moon 10.40 **Brainwaves**. Quiz show  
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **People Today**  
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **Happy Memories** with Cliff Michmore and Wendy Gibson 12.20 **Scene-Today** 12.55 **Regional News** and weather  
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather  
1.30 **Neighbours**. The soap set in a Californian cul-de-sac is now more popular in the United States than in the UK but we see some five years behind the American. The best must be yet to come 3.05 **King and Company**. *EastEnders* Warlock Richard is taken on a trip from his home in the film-maker Simon King (r). (Ceebs)  
3.35 **Tam and Jerry Triple Bill** (r)  
3.50 **Bodger and Badger**. Episode eight of the 12-part comedy 4.05 **Jimbo and the Jet Set**. Carlton (14.10) **Jackpot Silver Stories**. Patricia Routledge reads Helen Cresswell's *Lizzie Trapping* by Moonlight 4.25 **The Champions** 4.35 **Postscript** and **Co**  
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Dodger**. Episode two of the children's drama. (Ceebs)  
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceebs) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 **Inside**  
6.00 **St. O'Clock News** with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather  
6.30 **Regional News** Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.00 **Wogan**. The French actor Gérard Philipeau talks about his first English language film, *Green Card*, with the director, Peter Weir  
7.35 **Challenge America**. Repeat of one of the more emotional challenges in which Anneka-Rice and her team of volunteers renovate an orphanage in Romania and throw a Christmas party for 600 youngsters. (Ceebs)  
8.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Liberal Democrats  
8.10 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis (Ceebs). Regional news and weather  
9.40 **OED: Your Child's Diet on Trial - The Verdict**.  
CHOICE: In an edition of *OED* broadcast three years ago it was controversially claimed that the intelligence and behaviour of schoolchildren could be improved through vitamin and mineral supplements. A subsequent study in Durham failed to support the thesis, while trials in Belgium suggested there might be something in it. Tonight's programme reveals the results of the two latest studies, of 1,000 children in Britain and the United States, which have the authority of being organised by the nutrition Professor John Yudkin and the psychologist Professor Hans Eysenck. The children were given vitamins, or dummy pills, for three months and then subjected to intelligence and behaviour tests. A girl at one of the schools involved echoed the scepticism of much of the scientific establishment: "I don't think a tablet will make me brainy." But what if the survey results contradict her?  
10.10 **Match of the Day**. Highlights of the FA Cup fifth round match between *Sheff Wed* and *Arsenal*



Putting his career in the dock: lawyer Paul Newman (10.40pm)

10.40 **Film: The Verdict (1982)**.  
CHOICE: Even at the Perry Mason level courtroom dramas rarely fail on the screen and this one, apart from Sidney Lumet's usual narrative skill, has the benefit of a penetrating script by the playwright David Mamet and two excellent performances by seasoned actors at the top of their form. Paul Newman is a Boston lawyer who is doing on his luck and hitting the bottle when he is offered the defence of a seemingly straightforward case of medical malpractice. But he has reckoned without counsel for the defence, an old and wily adversary played by James Mason. Sometimes Lumet's desire to parade his liberalism and sense of justice give the film a self-consciously propagandist tone but it is still a satisfying blend of thriller and social document. Charlotte Rampling is worked rather uncomfortably into the plot as Newman's romantic interest.  
12.45am **News and weather**. Ends at 12.55 Northern Ireland: Film 91

**ANGELA**  
As London except 5.00pm-5.30pm Blockbusters 6.00 Home and Away 6.25-7.00 *Angie* News 12.30am Sit 1.05 *Dez* News 1.35 Film: *Saturn* 3.20 *New Power* 4.40 *Fifty Years On* 4.40-5.00 *Farming Diary*  
**BORDER**  
As London except 1.00pm-2.30pm *Sons and Daughters* 6.00 *London Weekend* 6.25-7.00 *London Weekend* 7.25-8.00 *London Weekend* 8.25-9.00 *London Weekend* 9.25-10.00 *London Weekend* 10.25-11.00 *London Weekend* 11.25-12.00 *London Weekend* 12.25-1.00 *London Weekend* 1.25-2.00 *London Weekend* 2.25-3.00 *London Weekend* 3.25-4.00 *London Weekend* 4.25-5.00 *London Weekend* 5.25-6.00 *London Weekend* 6.25-7.00 *London Weekend* 7.25-8.00 *London Weekend* 8.25-9.00 *London Weekend* 9.25-10.00 *London Weekend* 10.25-11.00 *London Weekend* 11.25-12.00 *London Weekend* 12.25-1.00 *London Weekend* 1.25-2.00 *London Weekend* 2.25-3.00 *London Weekend* 3.25-4.00 *London Weekend* 4.25-5.00 *London Weekend* 5.25-6.00 *London Weekend* 6.25-7.00 *London Weekend* 7.25-8.00 *London Weekend* 8.25-9.00 *London Weekend* 9.25-10.00 *London Weekend* 10.25-11.00 *London Weekend* 11.25-12.00 *London Weekend* 12.25-1.00 *London Weekend* 1.25-2.00 *London Weekend* 2.25-3.00 *London Weekend* 3.25-4.00 *London 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# BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## Berisford chief resigns

PETER Jacobs, chief executive of the remodelled Berisford International, has resigned. His position will be assumed by Murray Stuart, the group's chief financial officer.

Mr Jacobs was marketing director of Pedigree Pet Foods before joining Berisford and has an employment record focused on the food industry. A spokesman for the company said that, following the sale of British Sugar, Berisford's principal asset, to Associated British Foods, the company is no longer active in those sectors in which Mr Jacobs is mostly interested.

In his last 12 months with the company, Mr Jacobs has witnessed Berisford's metamorphosis from an international sugar, commodities, financial services and property company after the group lost more than £200 million on its New York property portfolio under the chairmanship of Ephraim Margulies.

## Burton man goes

Paul Plant, joint group managing director of Burton Group, is leaving the company. He will receive £600,000 compensation for loss of office and is due another £600,000 in deferred bonuses over the next three years.

Mr Plant is the third highly paid director to leave the group in recent months. In total Burton will pay out more than £3.6 million in severance pay and bonuses to the three departing directors.

Mr Plant, who is 45 and has been with the group for 21 years, will receive his Burton pension in ten years' time.

## £21m write-offs

Sedgwick Group, the international insurance broking concern, has provided £21.4 million to cater for asset write-downs, loss-making eliminations, and 600 redundancies in various parts of the world in its 1990 results.

Pre-tax profits of Sedgwick were £69.3 million in the year ended December, after taking into account the £21.4 million provision, compared with £86.1 million pre-tax reported for 1989. The final dividend is held at 8p, making an unchanged 12p for the year.

Temps, page 25

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.9195 (-0.0035)  
German mark 2.9215 (-0.0084)  
Exchange index 93.9 (-0.3)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1855.0 (-11.5)  
FT-SE 100 2322.2 (-13.3)  
New York Dow Jones 2862.87 (-25.00)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 2628.96 (-179.80)  
Closing Prices ... Page 29

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:  
BHP 227 1/2p (+10p)  
Puffin 549 1/2p (+23p)  
Britannia 725 1/2p (+18p)  
J Hewitt 49 1/2p (+5p)  
Esso 49 1/2p (+10p)  
Kleinwort Benson 348 1/2p (+21p)  
H Boot 48 1/2p (+10p)  
M J Gleeson 87 1/2p (+12p)  
J Fisher 307 1/2p (+43p)  
Tibury Group 650p (+12p)  
Hewlett Packard 515p (+18p)

## FALLS

RMC Group 70 1/2p (-30p)  
General Accident 55 1/2p (-13p)  
Commercial Union 515 1/2p (-15p)  
Glen 525 1/2p (-11p)  
GRV 333 1/2p (-11p)  
GFE 510 1/2p (-11p)  
United Newspapers 333 1/2p (-11p)  
News Corp 384p (-11p)  
Closing prices

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 13 1/4%  
3-month interbank 13 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 12 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%  
Federal Funds 6 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 6.03-6.02%  
30-year bonds 9 7/8-9 7/16%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York: £/\$ 1.9195  
£/DM 2.9215  
£/SF 16.6667  
£/FF 166.6667  
£/Yen 166.6667  
£/Indonesian 166.6667  
£/ECU 1.93625  
£/SFR 166.6667

## GOLD

London: 359.10 pm-359.25  
359.30-359.40 (187.30-187.40)  
New York: 359.10-359.15  
Comex: 359.10-359.15

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar): \$17.85 bbl (\$17.70)  
Dutchies latest trading price

## NatWest sets aside £1.04bn for bad debts

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster, Britain's second largest bank, was forced to make £1.04 billion allowances against its bad debts last year, or £20 million a week, and has given a warning that trading will not improve before the end of the year.

The large provisions have made the bank hold its final dividend at 11.375p, and cut 17,000 jobs by 1993.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, said economic conditions had a large part to play in the bank's future growth. "We are unlikely to see any recovery in the economy before the second half of the year, at the earliest, so conditions will remain harsh," he said. As well as the bad debt provisions, NatWest suffered a £167 million loss at its American subsidiary, and a £49 million loss at its investment banking offshoot.

NatWest's pre-tax profits in

1990 rose by 25 per cent to £504 million. But 1989's profits were depressed by a one-off provision of £390 million against Third World debts. Without this, profits would have fallen by 64 per cent.

The bank set aside a record £695 million against bad debts in Britain, up 122 per cent, and £542 million on its international business, a rise of 314 per cent. This was mainly on loans in America and Australia, but the bank even lost £10 million in its small German operation.

In Britain the bank was hit by the collapse of thousands of small businesses, while in New York it had to provide against loans to S&W Berisford's property investment arm and Donald Trump's businesses.

John Melbourne, the head of corporate banking, is in charge of a new team which is examining the quality of the bank's lending. The team is made up of members which

previously dealt with NatWest's Third World debt problems.

Lord Alexander said the bank had decided not to increase the final dividend due to the economic downturn. "It remains our policy to achieve real growth in dividends over the medium term," he said. "However, we believe it is appropriate to exercise caution with payments, reflecting trading performance and outlook, together with capital adequacy requirements." The dividend for the year is 17.5p, up 5 per cent, after the increase in the interim payout.

The bank said it had cut 4,000 from the staff in its British branches during the year, but overall group numbers only fell by 400. Mr Frost said the bank was planning to reduce jobs by another 11,000 by 1993, and cut 2,000 from the rest of the group. NatWest estimates this will save £100 million this year and £400 million a year by 1993.

Dealers in the City were unmoved by the low dividend, and the shares shed 16p to 279p in the morning before recovering to close at 291p. Analysts said the decision was a warning by the bank on current trading.

"The short term outlook is difficult and the general outlook more uncertain than it was," said Rod Barrett, an analyst from Goldman Sachs, the securities house.

The slump in commercial property prices in Britain and America has left NatWest's £2.5 billion property portfolio overvalued in its balance sheet by £130 million, but Lord Alexander said the bank's accountants had decided the bank did not need a write-down.

The group's cost/income ratio, the measure of its efficiency, rose to 70.9 per cent in the year, from 66.6 per cent. This was due to the sluggish increase in income, up only 5 per cent to £5.63 billion due to pressure on interest margins and a slow-down in new lending. The bank's operating costs increased by 12 per cent to £3.99 billion, despite the job cuts.

Comment, page 25

## County faces two-year ultimatum on profits

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LORD Alexander, the chairman of National Westminster, has delivered an ultimatum to the bank's investment banking division to become profitable within two years or face closure.

NatWest Investment Bank, which owns County NatWest, the securities house involved in the Blue Arrow affair, made a loss of £49 million last year, after a £16 million loss in 1989.

County, NWIB and four of their former executives are on trial at the Old Bailey for conspiracy to defraud, which they deny.

"This business must be profitable within a year or two if we are to remain in it," said Lord Alexander. "We are seeking a good return on capital within a short time-scale."

"If we cannot get that, we must out. We may be a bank but we are also a business."

The losses included a fur-

ther £5 million provision for the Blue Arrow affair. Last year, the bank set aside £50 million to cover compensation to Blue Arrow investors and legal fees.

Tom Frost, the bank's chief executive, said the losses were caused by the deterioration in world stock markets and the British economy.

"While our investment in NWIB has not lived up to our expectations, we do believe this business still offers the prospect of a satisfactory return in the next year or two," he said.

The division's venture capital business suffered a significant increase in provisions because of problems at several of the companies it has invested in. NatWest has ordered cost reductions of £25 million at NWIB, which includes cutbacks in its Japanese operations.

Mr Frost said there were some encouraging signs, including a rise in market share.

## Unilever budgets for 6,000 job losses

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch foods to detergents group, is providing almost £200 million to cover factory closures and redundancies as it restructures to meet the demands of the European single market.

Sir Michael Angus, group chairman, expects closures among the 240 European factories and between 5,000 and 6,000 job losses among the 100,000 European workforce over the next three to five years.

Unilever has provided £195 million as an extraordinary charge against its 1990 results. "We are taking this action to ensure that we can make full use of the unique opportunity offered by the economic integration of Unilever's most important market," said Sir Michael.

The figure includes re-allocation and other restructuring expenses as well as

closure costs. Staff cuts would be through early retirement, redeployment and voluntary redundancy, said Sir Michael.

Group pre-tax profits rose less than 5 per cent in 1990, from £1.70 billion to £1.78 billion, after a standstill in the fourth quarter at £449 million. Group sales were up 9 per cent at £22.2 billion.

Unilever relies on Europe for 55 per cent of its business. The group benefited in particular from Germany's unification, adding £150 million to sales.

Earnings per share improved from 53.15p to 59.52p and the board is recommending a final dividend of 13.3p on Unilever plc shares, making 18.16p for the year against 16.75p. The final on the NV shares is £13.83 (£1.16) lifting the total to £15.27.

Temps, page 25

## Factory pay deals turn down to 8.3%

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY settlements in manufacturing have shown a sharp downturn this year, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Provisional figures from the CBI's pay databank suggest industrial settlements have so far averaged 8.3 per cent during the first quarter, against an estimated 9 per cent during the final three months of last year.

However, the figures came as Sir Brian Corby, the CBI's president, drawing attention to an impending rise in electricity prices, called on the government to work more closely with industry to reduce inflation. They also coincided with the announcement of pay rises of up to 17.7 per cent for 80,000 staff at the Tesco supermarket group.

In a speech last night at the CBI's Northwest regional dinner in Manchester, Sir Brian

said that electricity price increases, effective from April, would be a "savage blow" to process industries.

Sir Brian gave warning that industries such as steel, chemicals, paper and industrial gases might face electricity price increases of up to 25 per cent. He said interest rates had been too high for too long. Sir Brian added that the uniform business rate and the statutory sick pay Bill were likely to add to inflationary pressures on industry.

The CBI said manufacturing pay awards were not only down on the end of last year, but, at 8.3 per cent, were also lower than a year ago. Pay databank figures are derived from a representative sample of firms in manufacturing and services.

Better pay deals, page 9  
Comment, page 25

## Spurs keeps game plan secret

By JONATHAN PRYNN

DIRECTORS of debt-laden Tottenham Hotspur plc were unable to give details of the long awaited rescue refinancing of the company at a stormy annual meeting at the White Hart Lane ground in north London.

Nat Solomon, who was appointed chairman six weeks ago, told 700 shareholders that the club was "in discussion with a number of parties who have indicated an interest in injecting further funds, including the possibility of underwriting a rights issue of new equity". However, these discussions were not sufficiently advanced to give details, he said. He added the he was "reasonably confident" the board would be able to



Praised: Terry Venables announce proposals to secure the future of the club "within the next few weeks".

But Mr Solomon was unable to rule out the possibility of selling its star players, Gary Lineker and Paul Gascoigne, if an alternative solution to

the company's financial problems could not be found. Current trading was ahead of last year, he said. But the financial position remained "difficult". Interim figures for the six months to end-November will be available next month.

Tottenham's £10 million of bank debt has been on an "on-demand" basis since December when the company exceeded the covenants on its borrowings. Midland, the company's main banker, has agreed to continue to provide working capital facilities in the short term while Tottenham makes disposals and raises new capital.

Ian Gray, the chief executive, said the company was paying £40,000 a week in interest but that profits from

the subsidiaries were sufficient to meet the bills. Tony Berry, non-executive director, said on-field football activities had made more than £2 million profit last year. Losses from non-football subsidiaries reduced this to a £1.3 million group trading profit and interest payments resulted in a pre-tax loss of £2.6 million.

Resolutions calling for the re-election of Ian Gray and Tony Berry, which were initially defeated on shows of hands, were approved on a poll when proxy votes were included in the voting.

Shareholders praised Terry Venables, the team manager, who is thought to be involved in one of the refinancing plans being considered by the board.

Save not ruled out, page 40

## Opec could cut postwar output if demand falls

By GEORGE SIVELL

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will be prepared to restrict oil production if demand falls too much after the Gulf war, Indonesia's oil minister said after a hastily convened meeting of six non-Gulf member states in Vienna.

World financial markets reacted cautiously to the Iraqi offer to withdraw from Kuwait. The oil price rose 20 cents to \$17.10 a barrel in London, gold and shares slipped, while the dollar fluctuated.

Ginsandjar Kartasasmita, the Indonesian minister, said Opec estimates that demand for its crude oil from April to June will average 21.5 million barrels per day, against current production of 23 million bpd.

Analysts said this high output, an imminent end to the Gulf war and warmer weather as winter ends in the Northern hemisphere could send oil prices sharply lower.

Conversely, Mehdi Varzi, of Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, said "any sign of Opec cutting production to 21 or 22 million barrels a day would push prices right back up".

Mr Kartasasmita said the ministers made no decisions at the meeting, hurriedly called a week ago to consider how to avoid an oil price crash if hostilities came to a sudden end in the Gulf.

Algeria, Nigeria, Gabon,

Libya and Venezuela also attended the Vienna meeting. A meeting of all 13 Opec members is scheduled for March 11.

On the London stock market, share prices showed signs of boiling over after their recent strong run (writes Michael Clark).

The uncertainties surrounding the Gulf war and the absence of a half-point cut in bank base rates saw City fund managers apply the brake, with prices being left to drift lower on lack of support.

An opening fall on Wall Street left the FT-SE 100 index near its low for the day, ending 13.3 points down at 2,322.2.

A total of 502 million shares changed hands. Government securities shed 2 1/4 at the longer end.

The pledge from President Bush to continue the war, and a German agreement to raise taxes, pushed the dollar back up after the American currency fell on news of the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

After a morning low of DM1,508, the dollar climbed back to close in London at DM1,524, slightly up on Monday's DM1,523. The pound ended 30 points lower at \$1.9195 and lost ground against the mark after profit-taking, ending more than three quarters of a pennny weaker at DM2.9215.

Stock markets, page 27

## Bae eyes war dividend

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Aerospace is looking again at the planned defensive merger of its missile business with Thomson-CSF of France in the light of the Gulf war. Both sides expect big new orders and are haggling over shares and control of the planned joint company.

Dick Evans, BAE's chief executive, said his preliminary judgment was that the world's armed services would put greater emphasis on anti-missile missiles, where BAE is strong, and on cruise missiles, which BAE is now looking at. A decision on the merger is expected within three weeks.

BAE also expects aircraft such as the Tornado fleet to be upgraded with additional equipment first used in the Gulf, bringing BAE more sup-

port services work, which already makes up a third of its £4.6 billion defence turnover.

Royal Ordnance has been working "flat out" and there will be "significant replacement programmes" for missiles and ammunition.

Professor Roland Smith, BAE's chairman, said that Ballast Nedam, the civil engineering subsidiary that worked on Kuwait's airport and docks, was in "pole position" to win reconstruction contracts.

The Al Yamamah contract for Saudi Arabia was expected to be enhanced rather than threatened by prospective new American contracts. BAE has had 3,500 employees working in Saudi Arabia and believes that the back-up service it has

## Gatt talks 'on track'

THE Uruguay Round negotiations on freer world trade have resumed after breaking down nearly three months ago over a transatlantic dispute about farm subsidies.

Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, said the round was "back on track" but avoided committing himself to new deadlines.

The 108-member trade negotiations committee that oversees the talks faces several months of meetings before it can present a detailed package to governments for approval.

In a document submitted to the committee, Mr Dunkel proposed resuming work in all 15 areas under discussion, from agriculture and textiles to services, intellectual property and market access.

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## NatWest breaks the dividend mould

Many expected an air of financial prudence from the banks when they reported their results for 1990. None predicted that National Westminster would lead the charge. The bank's decision to hold its final dividend, and Lord Alexander's tough talk about the group's inroads, prove that times are changing in Lombard.

NatWest could easily have paid more had it wanted, by pillaging reserves in the tradition of Britain's financial sector. Last time, £65 million of the dividend had to be paid out of reserves, but the bank remained steadfast in its commitment to offer shareholders a real increase in income. The full year dividend for 1990 represents a cut in real terms of 4 per cent.

Lord Alexander blamed the decision on the lack of trading profits, the bank's grim prospects for 1991 and the need to preserve capital. This is a major reversal of policy. In past years, banks argued that dividend increases could be borne by reserves.

NatWest's move, coming from such a stable and well capitalised bank, opens the door for Midland

to reduce its dividend next week and for Standard Chartered to follow a week later. Those ailing institutions must feel intense relief at this opportunity, since it allows them to avoid heavy tax bills and a strain on capital and cash flow.

The reaction of investors is less easy to define. NatWest's shares fell sharply when the figures flashed on to dealers' screens. But institutional investors seemed puzzled rather than angry.

The end of assured dividend rises could have negative longer term implications. Until now, the main investors in bank shares have been managers of pension and income funds, who thought they could rely on the shares to provide the cash flow to pay their policy holders. If the banks' dividends become as erratic as their earnings, the same fund managers may turn to more reliable sources of income.

Dividends apart, NatWest's bark sounds worse than its bite.

### COMMENT

The bank's announcement of 17,000 job losses looks less impressive on close examination. The group claims it reduced staff by 4,000 last year, but overall group numbers fell by only 400, although 800 was added by the Van Lanschot acquisition in the Netherlands.

Lloyds, by contrast, cut a net 2,500 from its British operations. By 1993, NatWest may have reached its 17,000 target. But Lord Alexander already admits that other parts of the bank will be recruiting busily, so the workforce total will remain barely changed.

The warning to County NatWest to make profits or die is harsher. Even so, NatWest has allowed the securities firm to drift for almost five years without making a significant return on its substantial capital. If it is closed

by 1993, the bill for NatWest's adventure into the City will look appalling. Lord Alexander and his team have certainly talked tough. Now is the time for action.

### Erratic CBI

The sharp fall in manufacturing pay settlements since the last quarter of 1990 recorded by the CBI will be gratefully seized upon by the government as evidence that the combination of high interest rates and ERM membership is finally starting to bite on private sector wage deals. The figures should, however, be treated with some caution.

The preliminary estimate of an average settlement level of 8.3 per cent in the current quarter is

indeed preliminary. A cursory glance at a calendar shows we are only two-thirds of the way through the January to March quarter. The figure actually includes about a third of all deals for the quarter, and about 40 per cent of January deals.

Back in October, the CBI claimed the first evidence of pay deals moving down, using preliminary figures for the third quarter, which was also then still in progress. Since then, that estimate has twice been revised upwards from an original 8.5 per cent to a final 8.8 per cent.

Such repeated revisions ought to make CBI leaders check before making too grandiose claims of sea changes in pay. But there is something in yesterday's figures which argues for even greater doubt. The largest fall for four years is based on a decline in deals from 9 per cent in the final quarter of 1990 to 8.3 per cent now. The 9 per cent figure has already been revised once —

downwards this time, from 9.1 per cent — but this is the first time that either the original or the revision has been published.

Having said settlements were falling down to 8.5 per cent in October from a figure then of 8.9 per cent, it would have been embarrassing for John Banham, the CBI's director general, to have published a figure showing settlements rising again.

Embarrassing or not, the data should have been published. Economists hold the CBI's pay databank in high regard as the only worthwhile long-run series on pay settlements. But the CBI has always seemed uneasy about it, chopping and changing publication. The figures, moreover, include no measure of improvements in performance, which Mr Banham insists must be linked to pay.

The CBI ought to make up its mind. Either the databank is a statistical series measuring as best it can the notoriously slippery object of pay rises — as it should be — or it is a propaganda tool to support the CBI's arguments and be published only when it does.

AS Britain's biggest manufacturer and exporter, with businesses in the wrong sectors and the wrong currency, British Aerospace ought to be in a mess. But things keep going right to upset pessimists.

In 1990, before the real Gulf war, military profits rose 62 per cent to £486 million as fixed Tornado costs fell away and production made proper money. Rover profits held up well at £55 million, against £64 million, for a year with four product launches.

The civil aircraft side, mainly Airbus, made £35 million, nearly all due to earlier provisions. Despite a dearth of property sales, trading profits were up 33 per cent and earnings after exceptional items 12 per cent higher at £2.7p.

This year, when BAE seemed destined to start paying a heavy peace dividend, Royal Ordnance has been minting money and expendable weapons businesses should have plenty of short-term replacement work.

The motor side, which probably makes all its profits from Land Rover, held up well in the market and should have to finance only one product launch. The £28 million exceptional strike costs should disappear. But unless the dollar recovers, BAE should suffer more on currencies, and civil aircraft will have a difficult year.

Pete Deighton of County NatWest looks for 1991 pre-tax profits up a further 14 per cent to £430 million and earnings above 100p per share. BAE shares, up 9p to 572p, would sell at 5.7 times prospective earnings as against 6.2 times 1990 earnings with a 5.8 per cent dividend yield.

Ahead, the Gulf war will lead to weapons systems being upgraded, bringing new military work to compensate for Nato cuts. BAE's odd mix is working. The shares have had a good run but still look excellent medium-term value.

### Unilever

EAST German craving for western-style sausages and soap powders may well have spared a blush or two at Unilever. Feeding and cleaning the inhabitants of eastern Germany pumped an un-

## BAe reaps unexpected harvest from the Gulf war



Top men: Roland Smith (left), the British Aerospace chairman, and Dudley Rustace, the finance director.

expected £150 million of revenue through the Unilever books in the few months since unification, and much of it will have fed straight through to the profit line.

This is probably just as well given the group's problems in America, where it took a £20 million exceptional hit on Lipton, which is still not as competitive as it might be, and in Japan, where progress has been disappointing.

The end product was a pre-tax profit of £1.78 billion for 1990, against £1.70 billion previously, after a standstill in

the fourth-quarter, which was no less than the market had expected given the ability of food and soap manufacturers to withstand recessionary pressures better than most. Overall volume increased by 6 per cent, half of it organic.

The surprise was the £195 million taken below the line to cover the group's adaptation to Europe's single market over the next three to five years. Unilever will hope that the closures and job losses that follow will be reflected in improvements in margins. Last year European operating

margins advanced to 9.1 per cent, and it is to Europe that the group will look for short-term comfort.

Profits in 1991 will do well to reach £1.9 billion, to give earnings of about 61.5p a share. Gearing, on a normal rather than the company's own calculation, is down from 72 to 58 per cent.

The shares, down 11p at 710p after recent outperformance, and on an 11.6 p/e, offer little but security in the short term.

### Sedgwick Group

LONG-suffering shareholders in Sedgwick Group do not need reminding that the group last raised its dividend in 1986, since when there has been a same-again 12p a share total payment. This year — for the first time — the dividend is not covered by earnings.

Sedgwick, however, is quietly pleased with its performance in the year ended December. Despite difficult insurance broking conditions, it turned in a profit of £90.7 million, against £86.1 million.

However, there is an exceptional £21.4 million charge, taken above the line, to cater for rationalisation and 600 redundancies, so the pre-tax profit figure works out at £69.3 million.

In brighter market conditions, Sedgwick will benefit from the control of its cost base. Sedgwick's problem is that there are three rates over which it has no control: insurance, exchange and interest.

As 1991 gets under way, these rates are still running against the group. Exchange rate negatives could cost £9 million this year, the downward trend of interest rates could cost another £7 million, and premium rates are not behaving as hoped.

Small wonder then that the shares have few friends. Profit forecasts for the current year range from £85 million — indicating another setback — to an optimistic £100 million pre-tax, which would still be only a modest increase over 1990 and once again leave no scope for a dividend increase. With the shares at 239p, up 4p yesterday, Sedgwick's prospective 18.4 times rating remains demanding.

## Kuwait's other invasion is ready

A SMALL army of engineers will follow hard in the tracks of the allied tanks rolling into Kuwait. Much has been made of the role of the United States Corps of Engineers (USCE), which has been awarded a \$46.3 million contract to de-

fuse unexploded munitions, remove mines and booby traps and restore essential services. A great deal of the technical work needed to provide even limited supplies of electricity and water, however, may be done by civilian technicians.

Since they helped build many of Kuwait's facilities, British companies will have a part to play, perhaps as sub-contractors to the USCE. According to a prospectus presented to Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, by a delegation of British industrialists two weeks ago, Britain is in "a unique position" to help Kuwait rebuild its power generation, transmission and distribution system. The system was built largely by British

standards and employs much equipment made by British companies.

Before the invasion, British engineers were responsible for the operation and maintenance of much of Kuwait's power system and desalination plant. There were about 50 engineers in Kuwait when the Iraqis invaded.

The list of past British suppliers to Kuwait reads like

played their part and have a detailed knowledge of the power system.

Kuwait's fresh water and sewerage systems have also relied heavily on British expertise in the past. Biwater, a private company based in Dorking, Surrey, was responsible for the operation and maintenance of 56 sewage pumping stations in Kuwait City under contract to the

emergency medical services, and to repair and re-equip Kuwait's hospitals.

GEC Plessey Telecommunications, in partnership with Cable and Wireless, has offered to provide and run emergency communications and redevelop the permanent infrastructure.

British construction groups are also working to ensure they are not left behind in the rush.

Jim Langford, president of the Export Group for the Construction Industry, believes it will be at least 12 months before the reconstruction programme gets into top gear. Thereafter, the work could last a decade.

Assessing the country's needs will take time. The cost has been estimated at between \$100 billion and \$500 billion. But the Kuwaitis have repeatedly indicated that Britain's part in the liberation of their country will not be forgotten.

ROSS TIEMAN  
Industrial Correspondent

## IS THE LEADING ACQUISITIONS HOUSE IN ITALY, ITALIAN?

Undoubtedly, Euromobiliare SpA, based in Milan, is Italian, and in 1990 it once again completed the largest number of M & A deals in Italy.

It is one of the most active trading houses in Italian equities, warrants and convertible bonds, with volume last year of Lit 4,500 billion. Recently Euromobiliare lead managed, with Samuel Montagu, a Lit 100 billion, 5 year bond issue for Landeskreditbank Baden-Württemberg. And Euromobiliare's sophisticated research department is considered to be one of the most experienced and informed throughout the international financial community.

In the past five years Euromobiliare has successfully completed over 100 domestic and cross border deals with a value of over Lit 1500 billion.

Yet Euromobiliare is also part of Midland Group's merchant banking network, brought together under Midland Montagu, with Samuel Montagu being the focus in the UK. It facilitates such cross border transactions as advising in the sale of Sodafco's detergent business, Lavasbianca, to Reckitt & Colman.

It's just one example of the power of our network. So if you're looking for cross border business opportunities, think of our strength in Europe.



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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Flying Finn on a sky-high

FRED Finn, the world's most travelled businessman, is gearing up for the party of a lifetime in April, when he celebrates his 10 millionth mile in the air. Finn, a jovial Yorkshireman who is listed in the Guinness Book of Records for his exploits — he has made 687 trips on Concorde — had world airlines lining up to have him celebrate his milestone on one of their flights. The honour has gone to Richard Branson, an old friend, who has arranged a special Virgin Atlantic mid-air party flight to Los Angeles. "I love flying and never get sick of it," says Finn, aged 50, who clocked up many of his miles negotiating licensing deals on behalf of American companies. Now working as a travel consultant, Finn has struck up an unlikely alliance with Norman Lamont, who appears keen to join in the fun: the Chancellor has agreed to let Finn pose in front of No 11 chuching a subsonic, in the style of Budget Day photocalls, to record the event for posterity.

**Harrods snub-ery**  
TALK of job losses at Harrods has all but masked the store's first foray into shopkeeping in

North America. The store, which receives a request a week from an American city asking it to open a local branch — and has a promotion on board the Queen Mary in California — has snubbed its American customers by setting up in Canada instead. The doors of a miniature branch opened at Toronto airport's new £250 million terminal three last week, offering everything from a £2 packet of tea to a £7,000 trunk for passengers looking for a last-minute purchase. "We have refused on many occasions to site stores in New York and LA, but felt this was just the right spot," says a Harrods

spokesman. The news may do little to soothe the tempers of Harrods' 4,000 employees, 600 of whom have been offered one week's redundancy pay for every year worked.

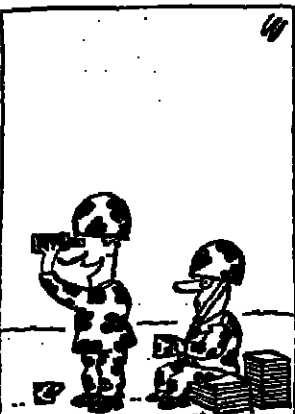
A MEMBER of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce has had an answering machine fitted to his car phone. Anyone who calls when the car is parked receives the message: "Unfortunately, I am in at present. Please call again when I am out."

**An Inchoate away**  
AFTER a four-day visit to the Gulf, Sir George Turnbull, the chairman and chief executive of Inchoate, tells how the proximity of war was brought home to him before he even stepped off the plane. "No sooner had we touched down in Bahrain than a stewardess handed me a copy of the Gulf Daily News containing a report of that morning's failed Scud attack on the island," he says. "Our people in Bahrain told how they were taken by the sounds of the missile's destruction," he adds. Sir George was en route to Muscat, where he was attending a sales conference organised by Gray Mackenzie, Inchoate's Middle East subsidiary, in the magnificent Al-Bustan Palace Hotel. Gray Mackenzie employs about 2,500 people in

the Gulf region, including some in Iran and Syria. "Inchoate did have operations in Kuwait, but the office was evacuated soon after the Iraqis marched in," says Sir George. "We are now looking forward to re-establishing ourselves in Kuwait City."

**Up in smoke**  
HARD-nosed businessmen worrying how to fill their order books should spare a thought for one of Britain's oldest business communities, which is facing extinction under proposed European Community rules. The targets of Brussels' anger are the kipper smokers of Yorkshire and Northumberland, who have been given warning that their traditional method of smoking herrings over smouldering sawdust is to be banned on health grounds. Residents of Whitby are appealing to Sir Leon Brittan, EC commissioner for competition policy. Sir Leon is not only a former MP for Whitby, but is also said to find the aroma of home-cured kippers irresistible. "Not one of those European bureaucrats can point their finger at anyone becoming ill as a result of eating kippers cured in the traditional way," says Bill Fortune, a kipper smoker in Whitby.

JON ASHWORTH



"Good results from British Aerospace I notice"



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Exchange Index compared with 1995 was down at \$3.9 (day's range \$3.9-94.2).

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Sterling Spot Rates for Feb 95		Sterling Forward Rates		Sterling Forward Rates	
City	Rate	City	Rate	City	Rate
New York	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Montreal	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Amsterdam	3.9394-3.9395	London	3.9394-3.9395	London	3.9394-3.9395
Frankfurt	11.9394-11.9395	London	11.9394-11.9395	London	11.9394-11.9395
Copenhagen	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Dublin	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Lisbon	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Madrid	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Paris	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Oslo	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Porto	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Stockholm	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Tokyo	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Warsaw	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Zurich	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395

## MONEY RATES (%)

Sterling Money Rates		Sterling Money Rates		Sterling Money Rates	
City	Rate	City	Rate	City	Rate
New York	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Montreal	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Amsterdam	3.9394-3.9395	London	3.9394-3.9395	London	3.9394-3.9395
Frankfurt	11.9394-11.9395	London	11.9394-11.9395	London	11.9394-11.9395
Copenhagen	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Dublin	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Lisbon	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Madrid	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Paris	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Oslo	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Porto	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Stockholm	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395	London	1.9394-1.9395
Tokyo	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Warsaw	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395
Zurich	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395	London	2.9394-2.9395

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Other Sterling Rates		Other Sterling Rates		Other Sterling Rates	
City	Rate	City	Rate	City	Rate
Argentina (aust)	17804.1-17822.2	Ireland	1.7450-1.7455		
Australia dollar	2.4401-2.4402	Singapore	1.7290-1.7295		
British dollar	1.19-1.1901	Switzerland	1.7290-1.7295		
Brazil cruzeiro	426.06-427.27	Taiwan	1.7290-1.7295		
Cyprus pound	0.8392-0.8393	Canada	1.1518-1.1519		
Philippine peso	1.0275-1.0276	Sweden	0.8690-0.8691		
Greece drachma	15.515-15.516	Norway	0.8690-0.8691		
Hong Kong dollar	14.5290-14.5291	Denmark	0.8690-0.8691		
Indian rupee	8.25-8.26	Finland	0.8690-0.8691		
Kuwait dirham	0.1995-0.1996	France	0.8690-0.8691		
Malaysian ringgit	0.1995-0.1996	Germany	0.8690-0.8691		
New Zealand dollar	0.1995-0.1996	Italy	0.8690-0.8691		
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.1995-0.1996	Japan	0.8690-0.8691		
Singapore dollar	0.1995-0.1996	South Korea	0.8690-0.8691		
S.A. rand (rand)	0.1995-0.1996	Hong Kong	0.8690-0.8691		
U.A.E. dirham	0.1995-0.1996	Portugal	0.8690-0.8691		
Saudi riyal	0.1995-0.1996	Australia	0.8690-0.8691		

ECB's Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day Dec 31, 1990 agreed Jan 25

[illegible]



## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code
1	Aerospac	Industrials A-D	1
2	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	2
3	Chemicals	Chemicals/Pharm	3
4	Decca Packaging	Paper/Print/Ad	4
5	Brown Shipley	Textiles	5
6	Bodystyle	Industrials E-K	6
7	Edison	Industrials L-R	7
8	Ransomes	Industrials S-Z	8
9	Thames Valley	Industrials A-D	9
10	Chryson Ltd	Industrials A-D	10
11	Wentworth	Industrials S-Z	11
12	Savills	Property	12
13	Barclays	Industrials A-D	13
14	Macmillan Repro	Industrials A-D	14
15	Rolls-Royce	Industrials A-D	15
16	Goldcrest	Industrials A-D	16
17	Goldcrest	Industrials A-D	17
18	Goldcrest	Industrials A-D	18
19	Spring Ram	Industrials S-Z	19
20	P & P	Industrials S-Z	20
21	More O'Farrell	Paper/Print/Ad	21
22	Charmant	Industrials A-D	22
23	Charmant (H)	Industrials A-D	23
24	Charmant	Industrials A-D	24
25	Rothmans	Industrials L-R	25
26	APL	Industrials A-D	26
27	APL	Industrials A-D	27
28	APL	Industrials A-D	28
29	APL	Industrials A-D	29
30	APL	Industrials A-D	30
31	APL	Industrials A-D	31
32	APL	Industrials A-D	32
33	APL	Industrials A-D	33
34	APL	Industrials A-D	34
35	APL	Industrials A-D	35
36	APL	Industrials A-D	36
37	APL	Industrials A-D	37
38	APL	Industrials A-D	38
39	APL	Industrials A-D	39
40	APL	Industrials A-D	40
41	APL	Industrials A-D	41
42	APL	Industrials A-D	42
43	APL	Industrials A-D	43
44	APL	Industrials A-D	44
45	APL	Industrials A-D	45
46	APL	Industrials A-D	46
47	APL	Industrials A-D	47
48	APL	Industrials A-D	48
49	APL	Industrials A-D	49
50	APL	Industrials A-D	50

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr John Shackleton, of Bromley, Kent.

### BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1	100	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	100	100	100	100
11	100	100	100	100	100	100
12	100	100	100	100	100	100
13	100	100	100	100	100	100
14	100	100	100	100	100	100
15	100	100	100	100	100	100
16	100	100	100	100	100	100
17	100	100	100	100	100	100
18	100	100	100	100	100	100
19	100	100	100	100	100	100
20	100	100	100	100	100	100
21	100	100	100	100	100	100
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23	100	100	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	100	100	100	100
26	100	100	100	100	100	100
27	100	100	100	100	100	100
28	100	100	100	100	100	100
29	100	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	100	100	100	100
32	100	100	100	100	100	100
33	100	100	100	100	100	100
34	100	100	100	100	100	100
35	100	100	100	100	100	100
36	100	100	100	100	100	100
37	100	100	100	100	100	100
38	100	100	100	100	100	100
39	100	100	100	100	100	100
40	100	100	100	100	100	100
41	100	100	100	100	100	100
42	100	100	100	100	100	100
43	100	100	100	100	100	100
44	100	100	100	100	100	100
45	100	100	100	100	100	100
46	100	100	100	100	100	100
47	100	100	100	100	100	100
48	100	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	100	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1	100	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100	100
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9	100	100	100	100	100	100
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41	100	100	100	100	100	100
42	100	100	100	100	100	100
43	100	100	100	100	100	100
44	100	100	100	100	100	100
45	100	100	100	100	100	100
46	100	100	100	100	100	100
47	100	100	100	100	100	100
48	100	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	100	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1	100	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100	100	100
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10	100	100	100	100	100	100
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18	100	100	100	100	100	100
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46	100	100	100	100	100	100
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48	100	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED

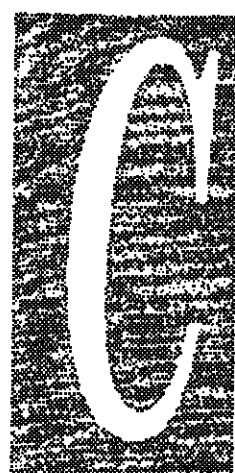
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071-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 4481



Very Competitive Package

## City rewards away from the hordes

Most Crème de la Crème readers are probably resigned to the hassle of the big cities. But - consider the alternatives of moving to the Headquarters of this major international business based in Loughborough on the borders of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. This significant senior appointment carries the rewards, responsibilities and commercial involvement you may not expect to find outside London or other big cities. Lower cost housing. Superb countryside. Excellent shopping, leisure and cultural facilities close at hand. And a comparatively easy drive to work. All this just 70 minutes from London.

FISONS Pharmaceuticals

## SECRETARY

## To the Chairman

The Pharmaceutical Division of Fisons plc has an international reputation for the successful innovation, manufacture and marketing of prescription and proprietary drugs and continues to expand rapidly. Your brief will be to manage the very busy office of the Chairman - a demanding and diverse role right at the heart of the Company. The highest level of modern office skills are absolutely essential - but not enough! You will also need commercial awareness combined with the personal charisma and social skills to work closely with Directors and other VIPs from home and abroad. If you share our total belief in professionalism and have top level secretarial experience with a leading international company, you'll find the package - and the challenge - exceptional. The comprehensive benefits include assistance with relocation expenses where appropriate. Please send full CV in strictest confidence to: Mrs Christine Audos, Personnel Officer, Fisons plc, Pharmaceutical Division, 12 Derby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 0BB. Telephone: (0509) 611001 Ext 3013.

## PHONEPOINT

## CITY CENTRE LONDON EXCELLENT SALARY AND CONDITIONS

We are The World's first Telephone Company, backed by Europe's three leading Telecommunications Organisations. Our network is now expanding and we want our product in the States. This is an exciting time for us, and we are currently looking for our

## SECRETARY TO OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

You will be someone who has personality, drive and initiative, possibly in your mid to late 20s and who contributes their own ideas to the company. You are small with 40 employees expanding to 70 this year and it is our aim that all our team should be that, out there in the field.

If therefore you have good secretarial skills, confidence a fair with people and a cheerful sunny disposition we would really like to meet you. Once posted you will be your first position at this level through you would have worked for a Senior Manager and be professional and confident dealing with senior people. If this sounds like you, then please write in the first instance to our Consultant, Judy Brown, at the following address enclosing your CV and telling us why you are interested:

J.B. Associates 2-4 Bardon Hill, Salford, Cheshire M6 8SS

## "LEGAL LEADS"...

Legal secretaries, please telephone us to hear about your prospects and how we can help you to develop further. We would like to hear from you if you have a legal background, 70 wpm typing and WP experience.

Please telephone 071 248 3744 for more information. 2 Bow Lane, London EC4A 9EE

Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS LEGAL DIVISION

## Marketing Start-Up £16,000

The Marketing Director who has recently joined the new City office of a professional company is looking for a PA/SEC.

This is an involving job. You will organise him, help manage promotional projects and arrange client hospitality. Ideally, you will have a good track record as a top PA/Sec in a professional organisation. You would like the initiative to set up a department from scratch and be interested in learning the skills of marketing.

Skills: 90/60. Age: 24-35. Haverhill Square 071-408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

## TEAMWORK £16,000

Do you enjoy working in a relaxed atmosphere? Do you want a position which is a "stone's throw" from the station and offers a degree of flexibility? If so, then I would be delighted to hear from you. The company require an applicant with shorthand 80+ and excellent knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1. Age: 23-30. The company also offer an excellent benefits package.

Call Morag Walshe 071 256 6668 Love + Tate Appointments

## EXECUTIVE'S PA £17,000

Senior Executive of this international oil co. requires a PA aged 25-35 with at least 5 years experience at senior level. You should have excellent SH skills and a minimum of 2 A levels together with the ability to liaise comfortably with overseas clients at all levels.

Call Ian on 071-256 6668 Love + Tate Appointments

## Maine - Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

## INFORMATION OFFICER

## £18,000 + Outstanding Package

Gain entry to a top ranking World Class SW1 company but not as a Secretary (although you do need basic keyboard skills). Have you already worked with information? If you have already worked in the Financial Sector... and if, in this position you gained information experience... this job has your name on it! We are able to consider people with just a Financial background - particularly Research - if they are outstanding. A degree or a professional qualification somewhere along the line is a real asset. A disciplined mind, an organiser, someone who can handle a database, a person who is incurably inquisitive about what the competition is offering, in fact the sort of person who is virtually a walking database themselves would be just brilliant! As a matter of course you read the Financial papers. Are you good with people at all levels, really sorting out the difference between what they are asking & what they are wanting? Could you write a newsletter? Whilst everyone else is treating water this Company is conquering continents so if you want a piece of the action don't wait one second to call us.

18-21 Jersey Street London SW1V 6RP Telephone: 071-794 7941

## Six Month Stint Good Temp Rate

International bank in the City needs a bright young secretary to join their Capital Markets division for a minimum of six months. Initially working on a 1:1 basis, your job will grow as the team expands. Telephone liaison, word processing and simple figure work will form the basis of this assignment. A flexible approach and a willingness to help out will stand you in good stead. Multitasking and basic knowledge of Lotus is a must. Good typing (60wpm) and O Levels essential. Age 20-25. Please telephone Marie-Louise Champion on 071-256 5018.

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Entertainment - £16,000

The President of this internationally famous entertainment company needs a PA. You will be joining at a crucial and very exciting time, as they seek new sponsors and agents worldwide. Besides providing general administrative back-up, you will be actively involved in promotional campaigns. Your organisational skills will be needed to arrange meetings, social events and extensive travel itineraries and your interpersonal skills to deal with clients and to communicate at all levels. There is a possibility of travel both in the UK and abroad.

Fluent Spanish is preferable. Skills: 80/60. Golden Square Tel: 071-251 7788

ANGELA MORTIMER Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

## LEARN NEW SKILLS and REFRESH OLD ONES

St. James's College in Kensington offers short courses in Word Processing, Keyboarding, Shorthand and more! Telephone Training Consultant: 071 373 2852/2190/2390

## TRAINING COURSES WORD PROCESSING TYPING SHORTHAND

Amadeus Business Training 071 499 5907

## MOSCOW (6-12 months assignment) SECRETARY/PA

A unique opportunity now exists for a Secretary/PA to our Regional Vice President of Operations based in Moscow.

In addition to excellent secretarial skills (including WP skills) candidates (aged 25-50) should be fluent in the Russian language, have experience of being able to deal with people at all levels and present a strong and positive image of the company to outsiders. Candidates should be well organised, methodical, be able to take on responsibility and work with a minimum of supervision. Excellent opportunity for a secretary who enjoys working

under pressure and meeting deadlines.

Salary is in the range of \$25,000-\$30,000 net per annum. In addition, accommodation and meals will be provided free in our Hotel, plus return air fare to London at end of every 3 months.

Please send a full CV to Oliver Daly, Personnel Director Soviet Union Project, Inter-Continental Hotels Group Ltd, Inter-Continental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, London W1V 0QY or Telephone 071-409 3131 ext 79313 for further information.

INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP

## PA/Secretary to Equity Partner in our Commercial Litigation Department

We are a rapidly expanding City Law firm with over 300 staff in London.

You are a professional with first class commercial experience and a keen interest in legal work. You are able to work under pressure, without supervision, and have a flexible approach. Legal experience is not essential.

We offer excellent salary and benefits.

Please send CV to Beverley Morel, Masons, 30 Aylesbury Street, London EC1R 0ER. (No Agencies)

## PR MANAGEMENT £14,000

Working for this professional PR Consultancy you will be responsible for office management and become highly involved in all client activities - Bookkeeping and wages experience essential - excellent organisational skills - a sense of initiative 50 wpm typing.

## A NEWLY CREATED ADVERTISING ROLE £12,500

A newly created department within this highly successful Ad Agency seeks an experienced (Min 1 year) advertising secretary to organise a young and ambitious team. A new role with potential for scope. Age 22+ agency experience a must.

For information concerning the above or for more details on many more Created Ad Agencies contact one of our Specialist Consultants at Christopher Keats Media Specialists on 071 379 4164 or 379 0344 until 8pm.

## ROADSHOWS £20,000

This international firm of stockbrokers needs a secretary with leadership qualities to spearhead the organisation of Roadshows for three of their Executives.

The successful applicants will have responsibility for organising visits by associate US analysts to prospective clients based in Europe. Attendance at these venues as ambassador for the company makes immediate presentation, confidence and social poise prerequisites.

If you feel attracted to contribute as assistant to this demanding, energetic and charming team of Executives, pay attention to detail and work at speed, please ring us. Age: 25-30. Skills: 80/50 'A' levels preferred. City Office 071-726 8891

ANGELA MORTIMER Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

## Sports Film Promotions £14,500

Highly successful International Film Brokers specialising in sports events, urgently need a bright and team-spirited secretary to work within their hectic sales department.

Your Australian base is a five star! You will need good determination, energy, willing to accept responsibility and see skills in order to cope with the challenge. Experience in film, TV or sports promotion would be an advantage. Skills: 80/60. Age: 20-28. Languages are useful. Haverhill Square 071-408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

## SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required for Bloodstock Insurance Agency based in the City.

Ideal applicant should have: Shorthand & Typing. Skills (accuracy more important than speed).

Computer/W.P. experience. A working knowledge of horse racing/breeding. A good telephone manner. A sense of humour. Salary £14,000. Please contact Sally Greenwood on (tel) 071 702 1213 or (fax) 071 491 2896.

## W1 Solicitors

Young friendly firm seek two secretaries with litigation experience for partner and assistant solicitor respectively. Working conditions desirable. Excellent pay and benefits. Considerable advantages and ongoing training provided also requires administrative ability.

Salary negotiable. No agencies. Send CV to: Miss T. Halliwell, Solicitors, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0JH

## Personal Assistant c £17,500

An experienced PA is needed to work at partner level for this leading management consultancy. Your brief will encompass diary, travel arrangements, organisation of senior level meetings and extensive personal responsibilities. You should have first class secretarial skills (100/60 wpm). 'A' levels essential. Age 28-34.

## Training Assistant c £12,500

A graduate is needed for this professional City Firm. Your responsibilities will involve co-ordinating training seminars and induction programmes. A polished and mature communication style is essential plus at least 12 months work experience. Typing skills essential to carry out own work on WP/Databases.

## PR Secretary c £11,500

A young secretary with PR experience is needed by this well-known PR consultancy. You will be required to support a team of four so you must be able to organise and prioritise your work and run with several tasks at once! Age 22+.

To discuss these or other career options contact Kate Slessor, Caroline Rogers or Terry O'Neill on 071 629 7262.

SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS PRINCES STREET LONDON W1

## Build your Future Reading or Victoria c£15,250 + Bens

Capitalise on your property experience to take advantage of this stunning secretarial opportunity. While others flounder, this large company flourishes, developing superb business parks around the country. They need two secretaries, one based in SW1 and one in Reading. Both involve working for one Director, keeping his busy diary, organising meetings and travel and being a real lynchpin. You will need to be confident, flexible and aged 24-30. Good typing, shorthand or audio. Property experience essential.

Please telephone Kate Archer on 071-434 4512.

## Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## SECRETARY TO DESIGN TEAM

We are a lively and busy firm of Consultancy Engineers involved in the design of a wide range of building structures. We number around 80 staff and our offices are close to Farringdon station.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and efficient person to deal with the administration of two Partners and their engineering teams. Minimum 10 years experience, preferably in a structural engineering/architectural design environment. No shorthand required but must have WP skills. Non-smoker. 4 weeks leave and five lunches 3 times a week. Salary negotiable + bonus a.s.e.

Please write enclosing brief C.V. and details of current salary to:

Caroline Rutt, Alan Benter & Associates, 14-16 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6DR (no agencies).

## mazda

## Brussels - Mazda Motor Representative Office (Europe)

Experienced Bilingual English mother-tongue Secretary for General Manager. Excellent command of both English and French (Dutch useful). Shorthand an advantage. Competitive salary + benefits for teamwork spirited person. Initial interviews in London and Brussels.

Please send full CV + letter to:

SHEILA BURGESS INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS, The Power House, Alpha Place, London SW3 5EZ. Tel: 071-351 8831 Fax: 071-376 8240

## £17,000 + EXC BANKING BENS

SW1 Secretary/PA to Group Director of prestigious City Investment House. High profile, specialist assistance required after mid 20s. Please call Chris McKay on 081 530 8411 Calendar Recruitment

## RECEPTIONIST

for up-regarded Architects Office in SW1. Full Reception duties. Overlook typing. £14,000. TOP NOTCH SECS for major Co. in WC2. DWA 899 006. 016-10000. Please telephone 071-236 3506 J.C. Appointments.

## EXECUTIVE DYNAMIC SECRETARY £15K

REDHILL SURREY. Required to work for Managing Director/Financial Controller of Medical Company. Send CV to Box No 2221

## Are you as Multiplexer? £22,000

Our client is the Chairman of a large British PLC and also holds many outside Directorships. In addition his personal interests in this country and abroad which are run from his office.

He needs a PA/Secretary who is used to working at this level and co-ordinating all such activities. You should have a sound education, good skills (100/70), be flexible and willing to give the commitment. In return you will have total involvement and a great deal of variety. Age 30-38.

## DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES CALL US FREE ON 0800 833104

## Merge and Acquire £25,000

Working at the top of a leading US Investment House is a demanding role for a Director and his PA. Our client has built up a first class team handling some of the largest assignments on a global basis. His advice is constantly being sought on mergers and acquisitions so the pressure is considerable. He needs a PA who is used to coping with a myriad of matters at any one time, a superb organiser and someone who can pre-plan and interface with members of this team and with clients. Age about 30.

## DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES CALL US FREE ON 0800 833104

## Asset Management c£16,000 + MS

Do you come up to scratch? Prestigious firm of international investment managers based in beautiful Broadgate seeks a fluid, fast admin assistant. Combining your interpersonal skills and your technical ability, the role will involve client and broker contact, compilation of statistical data and general admin back-up to a small team. Financial experience, computer literacy and the knowledge that you can always meet deadlines are essential. Stylish presentation of self and work are prerequisites. Age 23-26. 60wpm typing and A Level Maths preferred. Please telephone Esther Marsden on 071-256 5818.

## HOBSTONES

## SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR Consulting Group

Tollitt & Company Ltd is a small consulting group, based in Apsley, working in the chemical and allied industries on projects in marketing and technology. It has a prestigious international client list. The business is expanding and has an urgent need for a Secretary/Administrator. The ideal candidate will be a graduate with competent secretarial and WP skills, and good English. Important are personal qualities - self-motivation, enthusiasm and determination. This position will involve participation in all the operations of the company including conference organisation and customer contact. This is an ideal job from which to develop a career in marketing/technical consultancy. Non-smoker preferred.

Salary £14,000-16,000. Call Bill Tollitt on 071 575 1382 (days) or 071 791 0225 (out of hours) or write to him at Tollitt & Company, 2.22 Whitechapel Technology Centre, 65-75 Whitechapel Road, E1 10U.

## PRIVATE SECRETARY IDEALLY AGED 28 - 40

Small office in quiet garden square near Victoria station. The work is varied and challenging involving the commercial private activities of the Chairman of a group of small companies. Good secretarial skills, shorthand, shorthand, as well as a cheerful personality and especially are needed. Salary not less than £15,000 p.a. Telephone: 071 730 5873

## Charity £13,000 6 wks hols

A charity involved in the rehabilitation of disturbed children, based in an historic square near Barbican seeks a tender hearted secretary. Immense satisfaction can be gained in this position offering lots of variety as you'll be organising meetings, keeping the accounts up to date and helping to co-ordinate and proof one of their publications. Skills 100/60. Please call Elizabeth Williamson on 071-256 5818.

## HOBSTONES

## DTP Operator £15,000

Fantastic opportunity to capitalise on your first-class DTP skills in a thriving consultancy near Piccadilly Circus. Working as part of a small team you will be producing reports and presentations to tight deadlines. A confident and outgoing personality along with excellent MacDraw experience and English O Levels essential. Age 22-45. Please telephone Jackie Purcell on 071-434 4512.

## Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Crème de la Crème also appears in THE TIMES on Thursday & Monday To place your advertisement ring 071 481 4481



071-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 4481

## Santage

**PA NEAR THE TOWER £18,000**

Professional PA (with excellent skills + background) to assist newly appointed Chairman/Secretary. One to one role with plenty of client liaison worldwide. Office management and personnel admin. Starting views.

Call 071-434 0030.

## PA/Administrator Property — £17,000

This is an excellent opening within a small, well-established property PLC. The requirements are, however, both precise and specific. It is important that candidates have sound experience within a small company environment and can enjoy working alone for two — primarily as PA to Chairman (dynamic, demanding, charming) but also supporting the Finance Director, in addition to handling all office admin. Confident, accurate skills (80/50) and WP aptitude essential. Enthusiasm, social presence, excellent presentation/telephone manner and ability to deal at all levels requested. Age 25-33. Please call 071-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING &amp; SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

## PART-TIME SECRETARY

Three day a week, 9-5. Audio 60 upon Word Perfect 5.1. Some book-keeping. Excellent references required and please. Location Blackfriars. Good hourly rate. Please send CVs to Mr. D. Smith or Miss Radcliffe at: Dutton Executive Search, Hamilton House, 1 Temple Avenue, EC4Y 0HA. Tel: 071 853 4212. Fax: 071 353 3325

## COMMUNITY CREME

## PA - To £17,000 SECRETARY - To £13,000

A major new charity based in prestigious City offices seeks a PA and a Secretary, both with good typing and administrative skills; shorthand would be a bonus. The PA will also be responsible for office management.

Please send CV to Stephen Wexler, The George Square Trust, 16 Byward Street, London EC3R 5BA by 1 March.

## RECEPTION SELECTION

## TELEPHONIST/RECEPTIONIST

We are a busy and dynamic Computer Distribution Company employing highly motivated individuals. Due to our rapid expansion we now seek an experienced Telephoneist/Receptionist. Applicants must be articulate, flexible and have first class presentation.

Please send your CV to Sue Radcliffe, Personnel Director, Computers International, 1 The Business Centre, Colindale, London NW9 3SL.

## PURE RECEPTION

Do you possess style and charm? If so, for clients, a dynamic company is looking for a Receptionist to greet and assist clients and reception area. Typing or shorthand skills an advantage. £22,000 + clothes allowance.

Telephone: Andrew Sturges, Tel: 071-734 3288

Smith Associates is one of Britain's leading firms of System Engineers. The company is expanding rapidly and its success is based on the quality and commitment of its staff.

## Team Secretary

Applicants must have a good standard of education and excellent secretarial skills.

Please apply in writing, including a CV, to: Mrs J B Hutchings, Smith Associates Limited, Surrey Research Park, Guildford GU2 5YP

## RESPONSIBLE SECRETARY/PA

Circa £13,000

Busy property company requires female with experience. Shorthand, Typing and good organisational skills required for this busy City West End office.

Contact: SETTING FREEMAN on 071 426 1885 with CV

## SECRETARY/P.A.

Enthusiastic person required for small office. Agency with excellent WP/typing skills and organisational skills. Good promotional prospects. Age 25+. Salary £18,000 pa. Tel: 071-323 1114.

## NON - SECRETARIAL

## WIMBLEDON

Drivers required to ferry tennis stars. Need excellent knowledge of West End and South West London. 3 years' driving experience on full sports licence.

Reply to Box No 2864

## W1 Residential Listings &amp; Management Agency

Person with strong admin, marketing & negotiating skills to join small professional team set for over 10 years with an excellent reputation to work in very trendy W1 office. Opportunity to make a good living. Strong bonus & commission & bonus scheme.

Call Jackie Sparks or Mark Wilson 071-835 9512

## LOGISTICS Controller

Large firm. 25 years exp. person with commercial background to coordinate logistics. Circa £18,000. Rise. Tel: 071-734 7825

## ARTIST/CHIEF OF DATA

Went job. Strong creative and artistic skills. Tel: 071-426 1885

## TEMPING TIMES

AND Professional + £12,000 D.T.P. + £1,000. Tel: 071-426 1885

## HOUSEHOLD UNIT

Domestic Company seeks Midland Sec aged 24-35. £12,000 + exp. Tel: 071-426 1885

## MAKING A MOVE

We are pleased to announce that from Monday 4 March 1991 we will be known as

## VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES LTD.

Victoria and her team will continue to offer the same level of professionalism and efficiency in helping you with your career needs. We handle positions at secretarial, graduate and middle management level, and would be happy to see you at our new offices to give you some advice on the recruitment market.

Please call on 071-872 5555.

Regus

MANPOWER

## SHORTHAND SECRETARIES

A number of our London branches are seeking secretaries with fast shorthand and sound word processing experience for a variety of temporary assignments.

Please call us now on

071-486 7865

We offer top rates and attractive benefits.

## MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

## The Language Specialists

ENGLISHMAN S.V.P. World wide the need for an experienced and motivated person to work in a multi-national environment is growing. We are looking for a person who is fluent in English and has a good knowledge of French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, etc. The ideal candidate will be a native speaker of English and will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: The Language Specialists, 100 Victoria Road, London W14 7LJ. Tel: 071-835 9512

GERMAN IN THE CITY City based German speaking secretaries and translators. We are looking for a person who is fluent in German and has a good knowledge of English. The ideal candidate will be a native speaker of German and will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: The Language Specialists, 100 Victoria Road, London W14 7LJ. Tel: 071-835 9512

ITALIANO NELLA CITTA City based Italian speaking secretaries and translators. We are looking for a person who is fluent in Italian and has a good knowledge of English. The ideal candidate will be a native speaker of Italian and will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: The Language Specialists, 100 Victoria Road, London W14 7LJ. Tel: 071-835 9512

## MERROW EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

071-499 3939

73 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DD

## HAMBURG ADVENTURE!

£16,528. WRITTEN & SPOKEN GERMAN

Based in Hamburg, the perfect job for an outgoing, dedicated and flexible person with a great sense of humour. You'll have the chance to travel the world, meet new people, and enjoy a great social life in lovely Hamburg. It's a terrific opportunity, and you'll be able to develop your own career. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: Hamburg Adventure, 100 Victoria Road, London W14 7LJ. Tel: 071-835 9512

## Dutch Reception

£12,000 + M.S.

Friendly bank requires a receptionist with Dutch. You will look after clients and handle a varied secretarial role for a Manager. Ideal age 21-29, with reception experience. Knowledge of Dutch, keyboard skills and a willingness to get involved in a lively company. Please telephone Nicola Whitham on 071-585 3535.

## Crone Corkill

Multilingual

## AMERICAN LAW EXP?

Individual City firm seeks Legal Sec who has worked for 10 years in a law firm. The firm is a leading law firm in the City and is looking for a person who is fluent in English and has a good knowledge of American law. The ideal candidate will be a native speaker of English and will have a minimum of 10 years' experience in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: American Law Exp?, 100 Victoria Road, London W14 7LJ. Tel: 071-835 9512

## PART TIME VACANCIES

AT SEC/PA, Receptionist, exp. Tel: 071-426 1885

## PART TIME SECRETARY

Part time secretary for a busy City firm. Tel: 071-426 1885

## RECEPTIONIST

Receptionist for a busy City firm. Tel: 071-426 1885

## SECRETARY

Secretary for a busy City firm. Tel: 071-426 1885

## PA

PA for a busy City firm. Tel: 071-426 1885

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## SECRETARY

Secretary for a busy City firm. Tel: 071-426 1885

## PA

PA for a busy City firm. Tel: 071-426 1885

## FRENCH SPEAKING PA

£16,000

If you enjoy becoming involved and are keen to take on responsibility, then join this successful Mayfair company as PA to Director. Use your French as you liaise with clients, organise social events and give full secretarial back-up to your charming boss. 90/50 skills.

Please telephone 071-240 3511

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## MULTI-LINGUAL DIVISION

## PARIS - DOMAINE CREATIF

Exceptional opportunity for PA "Secrétaire de Direction" to work for world leaders in Interior Design. Total fluency in English & French. Considerable VIP contact. Age 25+. £20,000 FF pa.

## PARIS - PUBLICITE

Young French mother-tongue secretary, with UK experience returning to Paris? Min. 30 years keyboard skills. £12,000 FF pa.

For further details on these and other positions contact: SEELA BURGESS INTERNATIONAL, Personal Consultants.

The Power House, Alpha Place, 62 rue Saint Lazare, London SW9 5EZ. Telephone: 071 581 5831. Fax: 071 578 5258

## MULTILINGUAL SECRETARY

Fluent in French and German for U.S. Law firm. Mayfair. Good skills, WordPerfect preferred. No-smoker. Good Salary a.s.e. plus benefits.

Send CV to Box No 2707

## FRENCH/ITALIAN to £16,000

Good benefits. French position in a multi-national environment. The ideal candidate will be a native speaker of French and will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: French/Italian, 100 Victoria Road, London W14 7LJ. Tel: 071-835 9512

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## PA TO THE CHAIRMAN

£24,000 plus benefits  
Westminster

The energetic Chairman of an International Holding Company, with prestigious HQ offices in Westminster, requires a dedicated senior PA for his Private Office. The position involves a wide variety of management and liaison in respect of his diverse interests, both business and personal, as well as the day to day running of his office. The working hours are 9.15 am to 7.00 pm.

An excellent presentation and manner, as well as a high standard of secretarial skills (120/60 wpm), are pre requisite qualities for this important appointment.

Please write, in strictest confidence, enclosing full CV to

Annette Whitaker

2-6 Catherine Place, London SW1 6HF.

## MERIDIAN

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

£14,000 + Mfg + Bank Bonus

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Retirement home sales are struggling in the recession. Christopher Warman reports on inducements being offered

## Sweeteners for mature buyers

The slump has hit all builders and developers, but those that provide retirement homes are probably suffering most. The blow comes after ten years of steady growth in a market where developers saw the need and seized the opportunity to provide compact modern flats for people trading down from large family houses as their children grew up and left home.

The building of retirement homes has slowed down in the past 18 months and many completed units remain empty. Even in good times retired people take their time before deciding to move. When conditions are bad, people who find it difficult to sell their own home and feel uncertain about the future stay put.

In the meantime, the developers will have to wait until first-time buyers return and provide the first injection of activity. Noel Shuttleworth, of the English Courtyard Association, whose courtyard schemes have set the pattern at the top of the market, admits retired people are holding back. Last October an open week brought about 400 people with a genuine interest, but getting them to buy is a different matter.

"I am considerably bullish, though," Mr Shuttleworth says. "We are continuing to buy sites, and have just acquired an exciting one at Kickenham, Middlesex."

The association, which aims at schemes of 20 to 30 homes, is building its latest at Lane End, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, a mixture of 27 two-bedroom and three-bedroom cottages, maisonettes and apartments, due for occupation in the late summer.

Because it is at the top of the market, the association believes it is cushioned from the worst effects of the slump, and it does not offer



The West Country scene: The Carletons (left) at Wells, where careful consultation preceded building, and Hays House, an 18th century mansion near Shaftesbury



inducements, although it would consider shared equity if asked.

Most other developers offer inducements, just as they do throughout the market. Barratt has a part-exchange scheme, and Anglia Secure Homes, one of the largest retirement home developers, is offering up to 20 per cent shared equity at three schemes at Farnham and Bournemouth, Dorset, and Ringwood, Hampshire.

At every one of these schemes, consisting of one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, optional services are provided through Anglia's subsidiary, Ha-

ven Services. The services include meals, home help and shopping. Haven can also organise intensive or occasional nursing. The apartments cost from £67,950 (Ringwood), £68,000 (Bournemouth) and £72,950 (Farnham). Ronald Clarkson, the proprietor of Hays House, an 18th century mansion, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, and Hays Park, 16 apartments within the grounds, offers them either for sale on long leaseholds, or through a life occupancy. Under this agreement 80 per cent of the price is deposited, occupation is granted for life, and the full amount refunded when vacated.

Prices start at £74,000 under the 80 per cent option or £92,500 for the leasehold, and the development offers a nursing home and close-care apartments. The service charge of about £500 a quarter includes water, electricity and heating, transport to and from Shaftesbury, a full-time secretary, repairs and maintenance.

Birse Homes, a comparative newcomer, operates a shared-equity scheme with its retirement apartments at Torquay, Devon, giving the option of paying 80 per cent and leaving Birse with the remaining

20 per cent. Buyers pay the 20 per cent when the property is sold. The prices start at £105,500, or £84,400 through the shared-equity scheme. In Chesham, Gloucestershire, Birse is offering Park Gate, comprising 28 one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom mews cottages, and The Terrace, a converted Grade II listed Regency terrace building with six two-storey two-bedroom apartments.

Park Gate prices start at £59,950 and there are money-saving options for the first 12 months. At The Terrace prices start at £74,950. Carlton House is a Re-

gency-style building in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, by the developers Heritage Hall, which won the latest *What House?* magazine award for the best retirement development.

This scheme, available to the younger retired, aged 55 and over, has six penthouses and 28 two-bedroom apartments, and is in the town centre. The scheme has an underground car park and a roof garden. The service charge, from £21.36 a week, covers everything except costs relating to the apartments, such as internal decoration, repairs and maintenance, heating and lighting, community charge

and contents insurance. The two-bedroom apartments cost £87,950 and the penthouses £169,500.

Not to be confused with Carlton House, The Carletons is a development in the centre of Wells, Somerset. The site, formerly Clares Carlton's clothing factory, overlooks the ancient moat encircling the Bishop's Palace and an open park containing the 15th century Bishop's Barn. The Carletons is a sensitive site on which detailed consultation with the city and English Heritage was needed before planning permission was granted.

Secure Retirement, of Bristol, is building the scheme in accordance with conservation and architectural guidelines. The scheme includes town houses and apartments that have attracted interest from active retired people, as well as 32 retirement apartments, known as Carlton Court.

The apartments have been built partly in a new block and partly in the converted stone-built factory. They have two bedrooms, and there is a residents' lounge and garden. Secure Retirement offers a shared-equity plan, and the prices range from £70,000 to £135,000.

Carlton Court will be managed by Haven Management Services, which is jointly owned by Commercial Union. The town houses are priced from £140,000 and the apartments from £65,000.

Details: English Courtyard Association, 8 Holland Street, London W8 4LT; Anglia Secure Homes, Connaught House, Stophenson Road, Serravalle Park, Colchester, Essex CO4 4QR; Birse Homes, Greenacres, Ashdown Road, Wellshead, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3QR; Carlton House, 16 Regent Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5HQ; Hays House, 0747 830282; Carlton Court, Black Horse Agencies Alder King, Wells (0749 73002).

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# Japanese funds help ride out the recession

**Despite high interest rates, low rents and a surplus of offices overshadowing the market, Christopher Warman sees foreign investment as road to recovery**

The traditional optimism of property professionals is undergoing a thorough test during the recession, and the reality of the difficulties affecting the market has tempered expressions of hope for a recovery in the near future.

As Colin Hargreaves, of Healey & Baker, the surveyor, auctioneer and estate agent, reports, the general loss of confidence, high interest rates, economic uncertainty and the possible repercussions of the Gulf war continue to overshadow the City office market. Rents are down and there is a surplus of space - bad for the developer but good for the tenant, who can strike a good deal.

In the West End, Rupert Dodson, of Healey & Baker, suggests the market has polarised. At the bottom end, there is "weak and feeble" demand and an oversupply of small buildings, while at the top end there is a good demand and a limited supply of headquarters buildings. Any space is being taken by big multinationals, particularly the oil companies.

Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks says a further increase in availability late last year

means that since the start of 1990, central London's stock of ready-to-occupy offices has risen by 95 per cent (8.5 million sq ft). The agent forecasts that the surplus will rise further over the first half of this year before it starts to fall.

On to this wobbly stage steps Alan Lintott, formerly of Leslie Lintott & Associates. He has returned to the market and with his associate, Richard Voisey, has formed Leslie Alan & Voisey to specialise initially in the central London office market.

Recalling his earlier venture, he says: "Knowing the client sector well, and having the ability to arrange complex deals in a bear market, is how we developed them, and it is how we intend to develop now." He admits he is more a tenant's than a developer's agent. The new company is marketing Charter Developments' 22,000 sq ft office development at Buckingham Gate, London SW1, for

completion this summer, probably in the £45 to £55 a sq ft range, with incentives.

The influence of overseas investors in the City market remains strong, and is extending, Richard Ellis, the estate agent, reports, beyond the traditional City core. City-based Japanese funds have widened their sphere of interest westwards to encompass Holborn.

Overseas investors accounted for 83 per cent of the investment activity in Holborn property last year, with the Japanese showing a preference for high-value, landmark buildings and the Scandinavians preferring smaller investment acquisitions.

Kumagai Gumi UK, the British development arm of the Japanese construction group, has a development programme in the City valued at more than £1 billion. The company's last big purchase in the City was made early last

year when it acquired Standard Chartered Bank's Bishopsgate headquarters for £145 million.

Kumagai Gumi has since concentrated on completing two developments, at Thames Exchange off Upper Thames Street, London EC4, and at Bishopsgate. Kumagai Gumi's Whitefriars development, designed by the YRM Partnership, on the site of the former News of the World building off Fleet Street, this month won the first City Heritage new architecture award.

Just as the City boundaries are becoming blurred, so Knightsbridge is expanding, with One Knightsbridge, a handsome 141,000 sq ft building by the former St George's Hospital (being converted to a hotel). This scheme, by Goodwill Nominees, an Abu Dhabi investment company, is due for completion in April.

High Bullock, a partner at Gerald Eve, says developers and property owners should take advantage of the stagnant market by preparing for the future. Development plans for the City of London and Westminster are in draft form and soon to go for public consultation. Now is the time to have a say in the process, he says.



Future outlook: Charter Developments is marketing Buckingham Gate, southwest London, due for completion this summer, as an ideal corporate HQ

## IN THE MARKET

□ The Duke of Edinburgh is tomorrow opening London Docklands' first Innovation Centre, a 40,000 sq ft bureau on the Isle of Dogs offering small businesses technical and commercial facilities normally associated with large companies. Up to 20 units, ranging from 600 sq ft to 6,000 sq ft, are available at rents of between £17 and £20.50 a sq ft, plus service charge, through Claphams. The Innovation Centre, designed by Falken & Mawson for the developer William Sinclair, is intended for businesses working in research, product development, new technology, design, analysis, marketing or promotion.

□ Chesterton, the international property consultant, has formed a European joint venture company with Soproc, a leading firm of French commercial property advisers. The new company, Chesterton Soproc, will establish companies in Paris and London to spearhead its continental operations and development. The company will operate initially from offices in London, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Geneva and The Hague, but has plans to expand into Germany, Italy and Belgium.

□ Charterhouse Estates and Postel have concluded the letting of the first unit in the first phase of the Bricklayers Arms scheme in Mandale Way in Southwark, south London. Howard Smith Papers has taken 15,000 sq ft at a rent of about £10 a sq ft. The unit will be occupied by its subsidiary Contract Papers (Holdings). The Bricklayers Arms is a new industrial distribution centre, and every unit, available through Jones Lang Wootton and Edward Erdman, has a column-free warehouse with fitted offices. Four units, totalling about 100,000 sq ft, are available, and the second phase, of 75,000 sq ft, is being built.

□ Penmarin House is the first office scheme to be built in the Cornish Estate, for 15 years. The Cornish Estate development, set in the heart of the Penryn-Falmouth business area, has four units, and the first, of 8,600 sq ft, has been pre-let to the Employment Service Commission at £7.25 a square foot. The joint agents are Scott-Stridge and Walker Son and Packman.

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FRANCIS, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 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2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 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# Golden Freeze can return in triumph

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WITH £20,000 added, the grade two Cavalier Chase is easily the most valuable race at Worcester today, and what a fascinating spectacle it promises to be now that Sabin Du Loir, Golden Freeze and Rinnus have stood their ground.

Well that Sabin Du Loir should go even though he has fallen in two of his last three races, I still doubt him being good enough to give 7lb to Golden Freeze, who has been entered for the Queen Mother Champion Chase over two miles and the Tote Gold Cup over three-and-a-quarter miles at Cheltenham next month.

Today's distance, which falls between those two, is the one over which Golden

Freeze so nearly won the Mackeson Gold Cup on his only appearance last season. Rinnus, the current favourite for the Grand National, was also entered for a handicap hurdle at Wetherby today, an engagement that he holds in case Worcester becomes flooded by the nearby River Severn. Even at his best, Rinnus should not be beating Golden Freeze at level weights.

Rin To Form, who is also trained by Jenny Pitman, should go well in the Fort Royal Novices' Chase after winning his first race over fences comfortably at Huntingdon last week.

I prefer Stirrup Cup, even though he fell at Sandown last time when still running well in

the race eventually won by Repeat The Dose. Before that he had finished third behind the same horse at Uttoxeter.

As the subsequent winners Formula One and Knocknennis finished second and fourth respectively that day, the form stands up under scrutiny.

At Wetherby, the Mickelthwait Handicap Hurdle can go to Marnoo, who will be ridden by Roger Marley for Mick Easterby, the combination who captured the Princess Royal Hurdle at Doncaster on Monday with Royal Esmerald.

Dr Macarthur, another who has been doing well of late on the Equitack, is now engaged to win the Bingley Chasing Stakes on Southwell's

## SELECTIONS

By Mandarin

2.20 Legal Beagle. 2.50 Bold Monk. 3.20 New Arrangement. 3.50 Miss Chalk. 4.20 Gannon.

By Thunderer

2.20 Legal Beagle. 2.50 Bold Monk. 3.20 Lindet. 3.50 Miss Chalk. 4.20 Gannon. 4.50 Robert Dear.

By Michael Seely

2.20 Legal Beagle. 4.50 ROBERT DEAR (nap).

Going: good to soft (soft in front of stand) SIS

2.20 NEW CROSS NOVICES HURDLE (21,463: 2m) (7 runners)

1-123456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869707172737475767778798081828384858687888990919293949596979899100101102103104105106107108109110111112113114115116117118119120121122123124125126127128129130131132133134135136137138139140141142143144145146147148149150151152153154155156157158159160161162163164165166167168169170171172173174175176177178179180181182183184185186187188189190191192193194195196197198199200201202203204205206207208209210211212213214215216217218219220221222223224225226227228229230231232233234235236237238239240241242243244245246247248249250251252253254255256257258259260261262263264265266267268269270271272273274275276277278279280281282283284285286287288289290291292293294295296297298299300301302303304305306307308309310311312313314315316317318319320321322323324325326327328329330331332333334335336337338339340341342343344345346347348349350351352353354355356357358359360361362363364365366367368369370371372373374375376377378379380381382383384385386387388389390391392393394395396397398399400401402403404405406407408409410411412413414415416417418419420421422423424425426427428429430431432433434435436437438439440441442443444445446447448449450451452453454455456457458459460461462463464465466467468469470471472473474475476477478479480481482483484485486487488489490491492493494495496497498499500501502503504505506507508509510511512513514515516517518519520521522523524525526527528529530531532533534535536537538539540541542543544545546547548549550551552553554555556557558559560561562563564565566567568569570571572573574575576577578579580581582583584585586587588589590591592593594595596597598599600601602603604605606607608609610611612613614615616617618619620621622623624625626627628629630631632633634635636637638639640641642643644645646647648649650651652653654655656657658659660661662663664665666667668669670671672673674675676677678679680681682683684685686687688689690691692693694695696697698699700701702703704705706707708709710711712713714715716717718719720721722723724725726727728729730731732733734735736737738739740741742743744745746747748749750751752753754755756757758759760761762763764765766767768769770771772773774775776777778779780781782783784785786787788789790791792793794795796797798799800801802803804805806807808809810811812813814815816817818819820821822823824825826827828829830831832833834835836837838839840841842843844845846847848849850851852853854855856857858859860861862863864865866867868869870871872873874875876877878879880881882883884885886887888889890891892893894895896897898899900901902903904905906907908909910911912913914915916917918919920921922923924925926927928929930931932933934935936937938939940941942943944945946947948949950951952953954955956957958959960961962963964965966967968969970971972973974975976977978979980981982983984985986987988989990991992993994995996997998999100010011002100310041005100610071008100910101011101210131014101510161017101810191020102110221023102410251026102710281029103010311032103310341035103610371038103910401041104210431044104510461047104810491050105110521053205420552056205720582059206020612062206320642065206620672068206920702071207220732074207520762077207820792080208120822083208420852086208720882089209020912092209320942095209620972098209921002101210221032104210521062107210821092110211121122113211421152116211721182119212021212122212321242125212621272128212921302131213221332134213521362137213821392140214121422143214421452146214721482149215021512152215321542155215621572158215921602161216221632164216521662167216821692170217121722173217421752176217721782179218021812182218321842185218621872188218921902191219221932194219521962197219821992200220122022203220422052206220722082209221022112212221322142215221622172218221922202221222222232224222522262227222822292230223122322233223422352236223722382239224022412242224322442245224622472248224922502251225222532254225522562257225822592260226122622263226422652266226722682269227022712272227322742275227622772278227922802281228222832284228522862287228822892290229122922293229422952296229722982299230023012302230323042305230623072308230923102311231223132314231523162317231823192320232123222323232423252326232723282329233023312332233323342335233623372338233923402341234223432344234523462347234823492350235123522353235423552356235723582359236023612362236323642365236623672368236923702371237223732374237523762377237823792380238123822383238423852386238723882389239023912392239323942395239623972398239924002401240224032404240524062407240824092410241124122413241424152416241724182419242024212422242324242425242624272428242924302431243224332434243524362437243824392440244124422443244424452446244724482449245024512452245324542455245624572458245924602461246224632464246524662467246824692470247124722473247424752476247724782479248024812482248324842485248624872488248924902491249224932494249524962497249824992500250125022503250425052506250725082509251025112512251325142515251625172518251925202521252225232524252525262527252825292530253125322533253425352536253725382539254025412542254325442545254625472548254925502551255225532554255525562557255825592560256125622563256425652566256725682569257025712572257325742575257625772578257925802581258225832584258525862587258825892590259125922593259425952596259725982599260026012602260326042605260626072608260926102611261226132614261526162617261826192620262126222623262426252626262726282629263026312632263326342635263626372638263926402641264226432644264526462647264826492650265126522653265426552656265726582659266026612662266326642665266626672668266926702671267226732674267526762677267826792680268126822683268426852686268726882689269026912692269326942695269626972698269927002701270227032704270527062707270827092710271127122713271427152716271727182719272027212722272327242725272627272728272927302731273227332734273527362737273827392740274127422743274427452746274727482749275027512752275327542755275627572758275927602761276227632764276527662767276827692770277127722773277427752776277727782779278027812782278327842785278627872788278927902791279227932794279527962797279827992800280128022803280428052806280728082809281028112812281328142815281628172818281928202821282228232824282528262827282828292830283128322833283428352836283728382839284028412842284328442845284628472848284928502851285228532854285528562857285828592860286128622863286428652866286728682869287028712872287328742875287628772878287928802881288228832884288528862887288828892890289128922893289428952896289728982899290029012902290329042905290629072908290929102911291229132914291529162917291829192920292129222923292429252926292729282929293029312932293329342935293629372938293929402941294229432944294529462947294829492950295129522953295429552956295729582959296029612962296329642965296629672968296929702971297229732974297529762977297829792980298129822983298429852986298729882989299029912992299329942995299629972998299930003001300230033004300530063007300830093010301130123013301430153016301730183019302030213022302330243025302630273028302930303031303230333034303530363037303830393040304130423043304430453046304730483049305030513052305330543055305630573058305930603061306230633064306530663067306830693070307130723073307430753076307730783079308030813082308330843085308630873088308930903091309230933094309530963097309830993100310131023103310431053106310731083109311031113112311331143115311631173118311931203121312231233124312531263127312831293130313131323133313431353136313731383139314031413142314331443145314631473148314931503151315231533154315531563157315831593160316131623163316431653166316731683169317031713172317331743175317631773178317931803181318231833184318531863187318831893190319131923193319431953196319731983199320032013202320332043205320632073208320932103211321232133214321532163217321832193220322132223223322343225322632273228322932303231323232333234323532363237323832393240324132423243324432453246324732483249325032513252325332543255325632573258325932603261326232633264326532663267326832693270327132723273327432753276327732783279328032813282328332843285328632873288328932903291329232933294329532963297329832993300330133023303330433053306330733083309331033113312331333143315331633173318331933203321332233233324332533263327332833293330333133323333333433353336333733383339334033413342334333443345334633473348334933503351335233533354335533563357335833593360336133623363336433653366336733683369337033713372337333743375337633773378337933803381338233833384338533863387338833893390339133923393339433953396339733983399340034013402340334043405340634073408340934103411341234133414341534163417341834193420342134223423342434253426342734283429343034313432343334343435343634373438343934403441344234433444344534463447344834493450345134523453345434553456345734583459346034613462346334643465346634673468346934703471347234733474347534763477347834793480348134823483348434853486348734883489349034913492349334943495349634973498349935003501350235033504350535063507350835093510351135123513351435153516351735183519352035213522352335243525352635273528352935303531353235333534353535363537353835393540354135423543354435453546354735483549355035513552355335543555355635573558355935603561356235633564356535663567356835693570357135723573357435753576357735783579358035813582358335843585358635873588358935903591359235933594359535963597359835993600360136023603360436053606360736083609361036113612361336143615361636173618361936203621362236233624362536263627362836293630363136323633363436353636363736383639364036413642364336443645364636473648364936503651365236533654365536563657365836593660366136623663366436653666366736683669367036713672367336743675367636773678367936803681368236833684368536863687368836893690369136923693369436953696369736983699370037013702370337043705370637073708370937103711371237133714371537163717371837193720372137223723372437253726372737283729373037313732373337343735373637373738373937403741374237433744374537463747374837493750375137523753375437553756375737583759376037613762376337643765376637673768376937703771377237733774377537763777377837793780378137823783378437853786378737883789379037913792379337943795379637973798379938003801380238033804380538063807380838093810381138123813381438153816381738183819382038213822382338243825382638273828382938303831383238333834383538363837383838393840384138423843384438453846384738483849385038513852385338543855385638573858385938603861386238633864386538663867386838693870387138723873387438753876387738783879388038813882388338843885388638873888388938903891389238933894389538963897389838993900390139023903390439053906390739083909391039113912391339143915391639173918391939203921392239233924392539263927392839293930393139323933393439353936393739383939394039413942394339443945394639473948394939503951395239533954395539563957395839593960396139623963396439653966396739683969397039713972397339743975397639773978397939803981398239833984398539863987398839893990399139923993399439953996399739983999400040014











